

**COLLEGE
FOOTBALL
YEARBOOK**

1995

**TOP 25
SNEAK PREVIEW:**

*Texas A&M 1st, Nebraska 3rd,
Notre Dame 9th, Colorado 14th*

The Sporting News

**'HUSKER
HERO**

**Nebraska QB
Tommie Frazier**

A fond farewell to the SWC

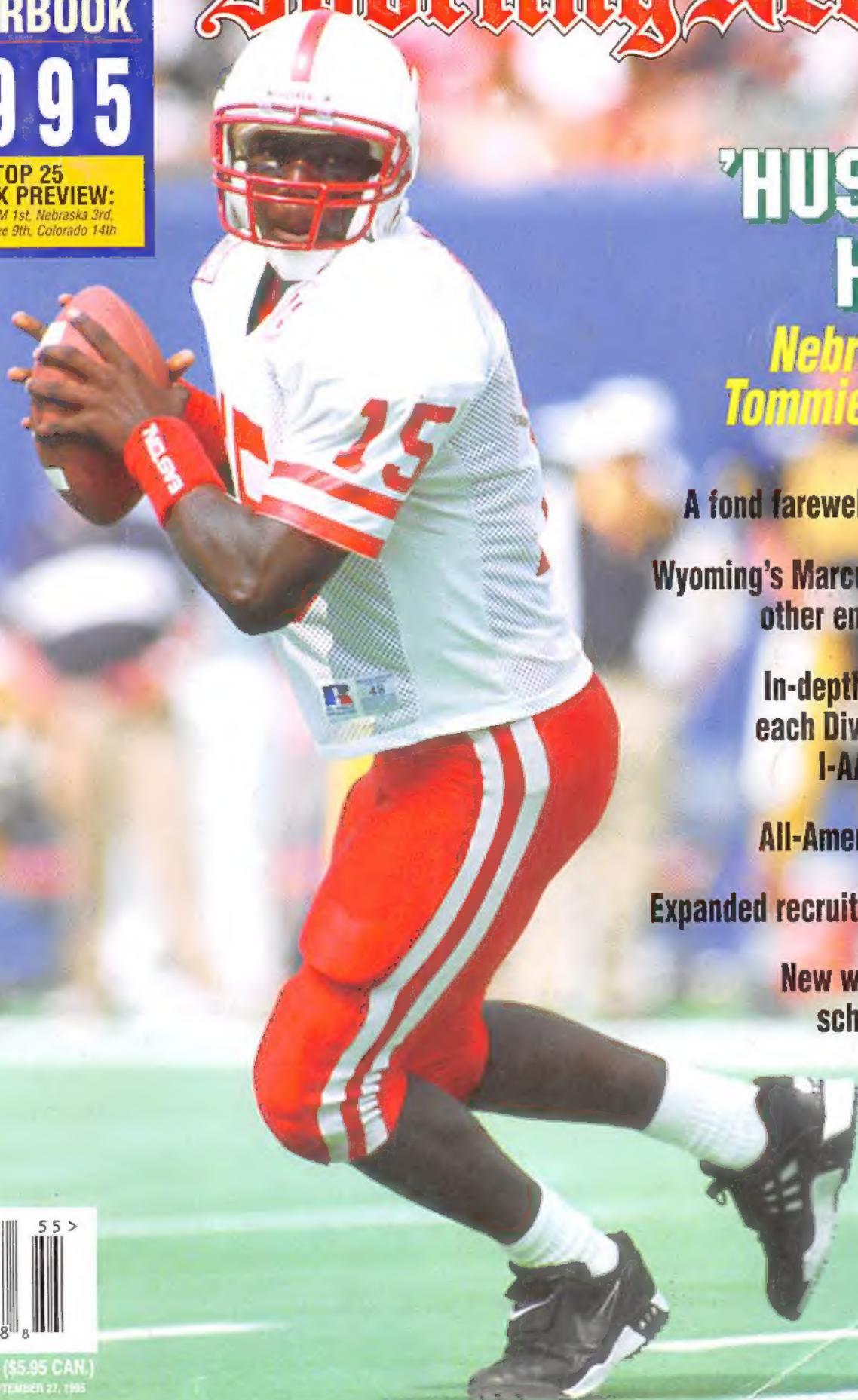
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The Sporting News

1995 COLLEGE FOOTBALL YEARBOOK

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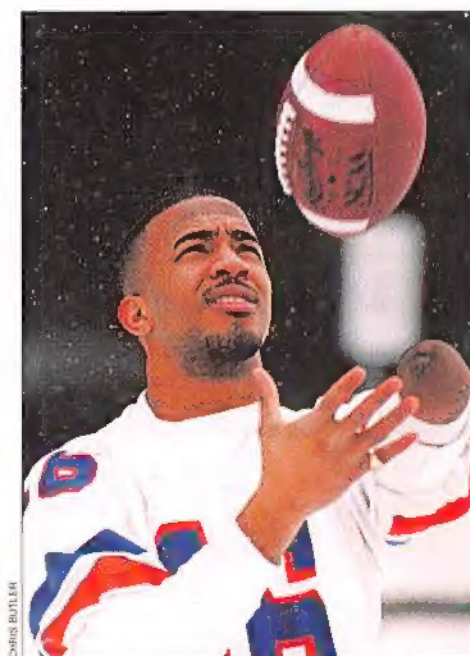
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DAVID BUTLER

147 Boise State cornerback DaWuan Miller doesn't let his handicap bother him.

B Audit Bureau of Circulations

Letter from the Managing Editor

I suppose an explanation is in order. At this time last year, THE SPORTING NEWS was touting Notre Dame as the No. 1 team in its preseason national poll. Needless to say, we missed—badly. The Fighting Irish concluded a 6-5-1 season with a 41-24 whuppin' by Colorado in the Fiesta Bowl. For once, they lived up (down?) to Coach Lou Holtz's poor-mouthing. The teams we should have been touting—Nebraska and Penn State—had been ranked fifth and eighth, respectively, in our preseason poll. That wasn't too far off (unlike Notre Dame).

All of which brings up the obvious question: How do we produce this poll in the first place? (Or, for those with a bit less tact: What genius picked Notre Dame?)

Well, as much as we'd like to scatter the blame, we can't. Ultimately, we editors pick 'em.

We start by asking our conference preview writers to send us their thoughts on the teams in their league. We used to poll our correspondents on the Top 25, too, but the results tended to show some regional bias and so we now ask for input only on their areas of expertise. Using the conference predictions as a starting point, we poll our editorial staff and such contributors as Ivan Maisel, TSN's college football columnist, on the top teams in the nation. Then we discuss the results, particularly the top candidates for No. 1 and the teams that received widely divergent rankings. After much thoughtful debate (and some name-calling and arm-twisting), the dust settles and we map out our Top 25. And this year, for the first time, we ranked all the Division I-AA teams. Why go just halfway out on a limb when you can swing wildly from the end of it?

Besides, we usually do pretty well. In 1993, we had Florida State as our preseason No. 1 team and the Seminoles won it all. We pegged Miami No. 1 the year before, and the Hurricanes were third in the final polls; national champ Alabama had been our ninth-ranked team. We picked Florida State in 1991, when the Seminoles finished fourth and there was a split national champion—Miami (our preseason No. 2 team) and Washington (No. 7). We're generally in the ballpark, which is all you can hope for when you're making predictions five months before the season starts.

So, take the predictions for what they're worth. We take this seriously, as we know our readers do, but this isn't a science. (If it were, we'd be in Vegas making our fortunes.) Our predictions are the product of lots of thought and expertise, but in the final analysis, we're guessing.

That said, you Texas A&M fans are welcome to get excited about being our No. 1 pick this year. Florida, Nebraska and Florida State have better teams, but they don't have the Aggies' creampuff Southwest Conference schedule. If they beat Colorado on the road in September, the Aggies face the path of least resistance to the Fiesta Bowl and a national championship.

In Division I-AA, we like Boise State. Or, I should say, Carl Dubois of the *Lake Charles* (La.) *American Press* likes Boise State. Dubois is a I-AA expert. We're not. Don't pretend to be. There aren't enough games on TV for anyone to be a I-AA guru unless you're out there covering that level of football every week. Dubois, who covers McNeese State, has been doing it for 10 years and has a good network of information sources. So, we'll leave the business of I-AA prognostication up to him. Dubois replaces Jeff D'Alessio, who has left the *Charleston* (W.Va.) *Daily Mail* and the I-AA beat after serving as our I-AA correspondent the past three years. We're similarly dependent upon Jerry Felts of the *Florence* (Ala.) *TimesDaily* for wisdom on Divisions II and III. And we trust all of our conference preview writers to provide the best possible insight into each league. We edit their prose and we may tinker with their predictions, but, hey, we hired them for a reason—they're informed.

OK, now that you know all about the way we do business here at THE SPORTING NEWS, we'd like some input from you. Please take a few moments to complete the survey on pages 3 and 4. Your responses will help us better understand what you want to read in the *College Football Yearbook*. We also value your comments, both positive and negative, via mail or fax. You can write us at The Sporting News College Football Yearbook, 1212 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132, fax us at 314-993-7723, or e-mail us at tsnmail@aol.com.

Even if you want to complain about our predictions.

Mike Nahrstedt

Mike Nahrstedt

The Sporting News

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Pro Basketball	September 19
College Basketball	October 17
Fantasy Baseball	December 26
Baseball	February 1996

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL SURVEY

The Sporting News wants to hear your opinions on college football, this Yearbook and The Sporting News weekly magazine. We also want to know more about our readers so that this Yearbook can best meet your needs in the years ahead. Please answer the questions in the following short survey and return it to the address given at the bottom of the page. Look for survey results in an upcoming issue of The Sporting News.

All completed surveys received by October 1, 1995 will be entered in a drawing for a \$100 gift certificate for sports apparel from Manny's 1-800-PRO-TEAM, ♦ or one of 25 T-shirts from The Sporting News. ♦

1. Do you favor a playoff to determine college football's Division I-A national champion? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - 1a. If yes, how many teams should be involved?
☐ 2 ☐ 4 ☐ 8 ☐ 16
 2. Would you like to see more bowl games created?
☐ Yes ☐ No
 3. Which Top 25 poll do you think is more accurate — the one voted on by the media (Associated Press) or the one voted on by the coaches (CNN/USA Today)?
☐ AP ☐ CNN/USA Today ☐ Neither
 4. Do you believe freshmen should be eligible for varsity competition? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 5. Do you believe that the current freshman-eligibility requirements are...
☐ too harsh ☐ too relaxed ☐ just fine
 6. Should players who transfer from one Division I-A program to another be required to sit out one year?
☐ Yes ☐ No
 7. Should college athletes be paid? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 8. Do you believe that the Heisman Trophy is usually awarded to the best college football player in the country?
☐ Yes ☐ No
 9. What is your preseason prediction of the following:
Division I-A national champion _____
Heisman Trophy winner _____
Coach of the year _____
Strongest Division I-A conference _____
 10. What is your favorite college football team?

 11. Have you ever watched a college football game on pay-per-view? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 12. Have you ever watched any sporting event on pay-per-view? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 13. How many college football games do you attend in a season?
☐ 0 ☐ 1-2 ☐ 3-5
☐ 6-8 ☐ 8-12 ☐ over 12
 14. Is your favorite team in any of the four professional sports outside your local market? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 15. If we could devote more or less space to certain sections (without changing the overall number of pages), how would you like to see that space used?
- | More
pages | Fewer
pages | Perfect
as is | |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|---|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | Feature articles on players, issues, etc. |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | Conference previews |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | Scouting the nation and conferences |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | Predictions (conference races, All-America teams, etc.) |
16. Would you like to see more coverage of Divisions II and III? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 17. Would you like to see some coverage of NAIA football? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 18. Would you like to see more coverage of high school recruiting? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 19. Anything else we should change to improve The Sporting News College Football Yearbook?

20. How often do you refer to The Sporting News College Football Yearbook throughout the season? ☐ weekly
☐ monthly ☐ constantly

21. How many other people read your copy of The Sporting News College Football Yearbook?
☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4
☐ 5 ☐ 6-10 ☐ 11-15 ☐ more than 15

22. What factors influenced you to buy The Sporting News College Football Yearbook? ☐ editorial content
☐ graphic presentation ☐ cover ☐ price
☐ name recognition

23. Which other Yearbooks from The Sporting News do you read or look through? (Check all that apply.)
☐ pro football ☐ pro basketball
☐ fantasy football ☐ college basketball
☐ baseball ☐ hockey
☐ fantasy baseball

24. If it were possible to buy all eight of The Sporting News Yearbooks on a subscription basis, would you do so? ☐ Yes ☐ No

25. Do you read Yearbooks from other companies?
☐ Yes ☐ No

25a. If yes, which ones? ☐ Athlon ☐ Lindy's
☐ Street & Smith's ☐ College Sports
☐ College Football Scene ☐ College Preview
☐ Other _____

26. Do you read The Sporting News weekly magazine?
☐ Yes ☐ No

26a. If yes, are you a subscriber? ☐ Yes ☐ No

27. Do you play sports? ☐ Yes ☐ No

28. Do you play organized baseball or softball?
☐ Yes ☐ No

29. What other sports do you follow?
☐ pro football ☐ soccer
☐ major league baseball ☐ golf
☐ minor league baseball ☐ tennis
☐ college baseball ☐ boxing
☐ pro basketball ☐ auto racing
☐ college basketball ☐ other (s) _____
☐ hockey

30. Have you ever purchased something through the mail?
☐ Yes ☐ No

31. Do you own a personal computer? ☐ Yes ☐ No

32. Do you currently subscribe to an on-line service?
☐ Yes ☐ No

33. Do you play in a Rotisserie or other fantasy league?
☐ Yes ☐ No

33a. If yes, which sports? ☐ baseball ☐ football
☐ basketball ☐ hockey

34. Do you collect trading cards? ☐ Yes ☐ No

34a. If yes, which sports? ☐ baseball ☐ football
☐ basketball ☐ hockey ☐ other _____

35. Where do you purchase them? ☐ memorabilia store
☐ convenience store ☐ supermarket ☐ mass merchandiser (K-Mart, Bradlees, etc.) ☐ other _____

36. Do you wear merchandise featuring your teams' logos? ☐ Yes ☐ No

37. How much do you spend a year on sporting goods (clothes and equipment)? ☐ under \$100
☐ \$100 to \$250 ☐ over \$250

38. Do you consider brand names in your purchasing decisions? ☐ Yes ☐ No

39. Please check the category that includes your age.
☐ Under 18 ☐ 25-29 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 55-64
☐ 18-24 ☐ 30-34 ☐ 45-54 ☐ Over 64

40. Are you... ☐ male? ☐ female?

41. Are you... ☐ married? ☐ single?

42. Did you attend or graduate from college?
☐ Yes ☐ No

43. Which of the following categories contains your approximate total household income, before taxes, for 1995? (Please include total earnings for all members of your household from all sources.)
☐ Under \$20,000 ☐ \$50,000 - \$74,999
☐ \$20,000 - \$29,999 ☐ \$75,000 - \$99,999
☐ \$30,000 - \$39,999 ☐ \$100,000 - \$199,999
☐ \$40,000 - \$49,999 ☐ Over \$200,000

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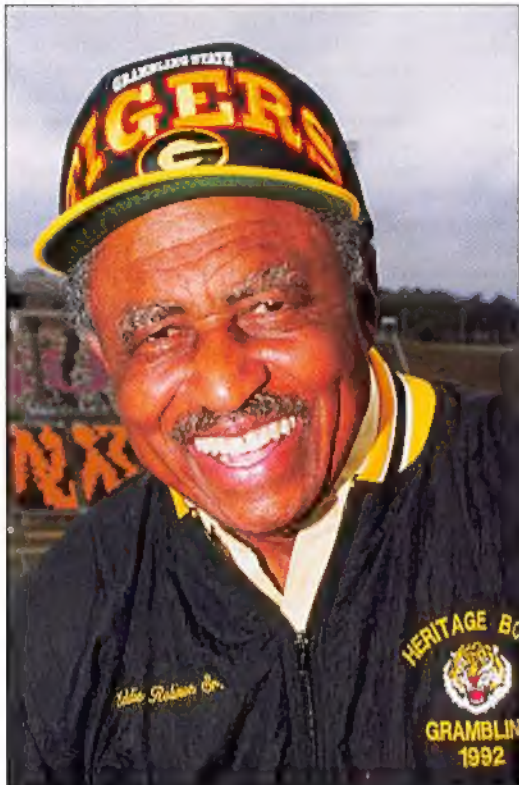
OPENERS

WHERE WERE YOU IN 1941?

Records are made to be broken, but it isn't likely anyone will break Eddie Robinson's victory standard.

When Grambling wins its third game this season, it'll be the 400th victory of Robinson's storied career. Thanks to impatient alumni who desire instant gratification, it's safe to say no football coach will eclipse Robinson's victory total.

The magnitude of his tenure is mind-bog-



Eddie Robinson will have a reason to smile after he nets the 400th victory of his career. With three Grambling wins this season, Robinson will reach the unprecedented mark.

gling. Robinson was 22 when he arrived in Grambling, La., to take over the school's football program. That was in 1941, the year he graduated from the now-defunct Leland College in Louisiana. Robinson was 3-5 in his first season at Grambling, when the school was called the Colored Industrial and Agricultural Institution of Lincoln Parish. Shortly after Robinson's first campaign ended, the United States was plunged into World War II after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

Yes, it's been that long since Robinson assumed command at Grambling.

Fifty-two seasons later (Grambling didn't field teams in 1943 and '44 because of the war), Robinson, 76, still is prowling the sidelines for the G-Men. And it's safe to say he has changed college football through the force of his personality.

Robinson isn't the only coach who figures to achieve a milestone win this season.

Florida State's Bobby Bowden needs one victory to reach the 250 career mark. To catch Robinson, Bowden needs to average about 10 wins in each of the next 15 seasons. But that means Saint Bobby will have to coach until he's 80. That's not likely.

Penn State's Joe Paterno is the winningest active coach in the I-A ranks. The Nittany Lions' sixth win in 1995 will be the 275th of Paterno's career. But if Robinson never wins another game and Paterno continues to coach and win, the Penn State legend will have to average at least 11 victories in each of the next 12 seasons to reach 400. Don't count on it, considering Joe Pa would have to don his flood pants and black cleats until he's 80. ♦

BEST OF THE BEST

Let the All-America hype begin. And what better place to look for a sure bet for All-America honors in 1995 than Notre Dame, which in 1994 had an NCAA Division I-A consensus selection for the eighth consecutive season (the nation's longest current streak).

Last year, defensive back Bobby Taylor became the 77th different Fighting Irish player to win the consensus accolade, a designation computed by the NCAA and now based on a majority of votes from seven major All-America teams, including THE SPORTING NEWS squad. No school has had more individuals so honored. All told, Irish players have accounted for 93 consensus All-Americas, with Notre Dame boasting 16 two-time winners, ranging from Frank Carideo in 1929 and 1930 to Aaron Taylor in 1992 and 1993.

One university, though, has had more consensus All-America selections overall in Division I-A—despite the fact that school hasn't had an honoree in 50 years. Say what? It's true. No. 1 in total consensus All-America players with an even 100 (from 69 players) is Yale, a powerhouse in college football's formative years and an institution now competing in the I-AA ranks. Yale's 1900 team, which compiled a 12-0 record, had seven consensus picks. Of course, there weren't all that many schools playing big-time intercollegiate football in those days. The Bulldogs' last Division I-A selection? End Paul Walker, in 1944.

After Notre Dame's 93, current I-A schools with the highest totals of consensus choices are Michigan, 65; Southern California, 59; Ohio State, 55; Oklahoma, 52; Pittsburgh, 46; Nebraska, 42; Army, 37; Alabama, 36; and Texas, 32. ♦

YOU GOTTA MOVE

Don't look now but Lou Saban—whose picture should be next to the definition of

"peripatetic" in the dictionary—is back in coaching.

Saban, who will turn 74 in October, was hired in September 1994 to start a football program at Alfred (N.Y.) State College, a junior college about two hours southeast of Buffalo and 15 miles north of the Pennsylvania border.

Saban's son, Tom, was interviewing for a vice president's job at the school when it was mentioned that a football program was to be started. Tom told his father, who called the school and eventually was offered the job. (Tom, by the way, did not get the job he interviewed for.) Saban also will help the school in its fund-raising ventures. The decision to field a football team was made in part for monetary reasons, and it has paid off: Applications to the school are up 15 percent.

Saban has coached (take a breath here—this will take awhile) Case Institute, Northwestern, Western Illinois, the Boston Patriots, Buffalo Bills, Maryland, the Denver Broncos, the Bills again, the University of Miami (where he recruited Jim Kelly), Army, Central Florida, Peru (Neb.) State, various high schools in Florida and in the Arena League. He also has been an assistant at various stops since



Lou Saban, who coaches Alfred (N.Y.) State College, didn't like being called a peripatetic coach early in his career. Now he doesn't mind.

his coaching career began in 1950. In addition, he has been an insurance agent, an athletic director (at Cincinnati—for all of 19 days—and Miami), an executive with the New York Yankees and an executive at Tampa Downs race track.

At the news conference announcing his hiring, Saban—who will be paid \$55,000—joked about his past. "I have been known as a peripatetic coach," he said. "The first time I was called that, I thought it was a dirty word. I looked it up in the dictionary and found it meant I moved around a lot."

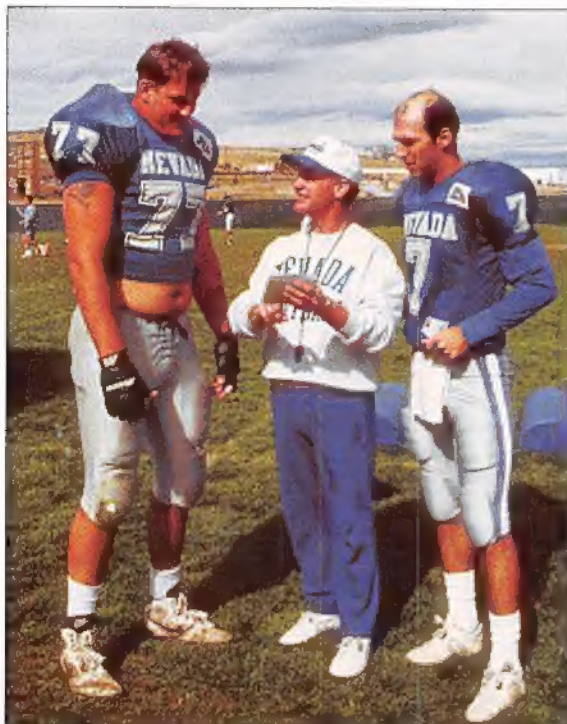
Continued

About 200 players have indicated an interest in Alfred State football; the team likely will have about 80 non-scholarship players. The team will play its home games across the street from campus, at Division III Alfred University's field. Alfred State opens its season September 9 against Lackawanna (Pa.) Junior College. We assume Saban will be there, but given his nomadic ways, who can be sure? ♦

BIG AND SMALL

Mike Rockwood, an offensive tackle at the University of Nevada, is a big guy.

Yeah, we know most offensive linemen are "big guys." But not as big as Rockwood, who is 7-foot and 310 pounds. Rockwood is believed to be the tallest player in college



It's no tall tale that offensive tackle Mike Rockwood is 7 feet tall. Just ask Nevada Coach Chris Ault and quarterback Mike Maxwell.

football history.

Rockwood has the talent to go along with his size. He was a first-team All-Big West Conference performer last year and should repeat this season. Rockwood, from Riverside, Calif., transferred to Nevada last year from Riverside City College and started all 11 games for the Wolf Pack. Rockwood is not other-worldly strong, but he does squat 455 pounds, pretty amazing for a guy that tall.

Rockwood's counterpart in some ways is Eastern Michigan wide receiver Steve Clay—all 5-5 and 145 pounds of him.

Clay, a senior from Cincinnati, caught a school-record 46 passes for 589 yards and six touchdowns last season, when he was a second-team All-Mid-American Conference selection. In addition, Clay is one of the leading return men in the country. Last season, he led Division I-A in punt returns, averaging 19.9 yards (14 returns for 278 yards and one touchdown). He also averaged 21.7 yards on 30 kickoff returns.

And, yes, there is a chance for the big guy and the little guy to get together. If

each school wins its conference, they would meet in the Las Vegas Bowl. ♦

BOOK IT

The 1994 Wisconsin media guide lists favorite Badger vacation spots. A section in the Florida State guide is tabbed with a Warrick Dunn action cutout. And in the Notre Dame guide, you can read personality questionnaires to learn that guard Dusty Zeigler thinks playing college football is harder than it seems because the mandatory butt pad is cumbersome.

Welcome to the world of college football media guides. Back in the 1950s, a media guide was a mimeographed brochure that gave the nuts and bolts of a team. Today's guide rivals a metropolitan phone book in size and can take around six weeks to produce. The 1979 Notre Dame guide was 96 pages; the 1994 edition had 392.

Nebraska Associate Athletic Director Don Bryant, who was the school's sports information director for 31 years, has been an eyewitness to this evolution. Bryant's commemorative color section on the 1970 national championship team helped propel the media guide into new markets.

"There became a demand for it," Bryant said. "Fans wanted it. The books are still designed for the media, but they are also used for marketing and fund-raising as well."

Nebraska printed 22,000 copies of its 1994 football guide, selling about 10,000 (at \$10 apiece) to fans.

Since the NCAA banned separate recruiting guides, the media guide is about the only publication a school can give a recruit. "Now you load up the guides with information to appeal to recruits," Bryant said.

To keep costs down, the NCAA has banned color on inside pages. The schools with the wherewithal, though, find other ways to get a recruit's attention. Some have even used outside graphic firms to help design their guides.

"It almost becomes a contest to see who can out-do the other one," said Bob Brendel, sports information director at Missouri. "But what I tell our coaches is that if a kid picks a school just because of the media guide, then that's probably not the kind of kid you want anyway." ♦

MAJORING IN MARKETING

Hey, you may say you're a Florida fan, but if you don't have Gator barbecue sauce, well, are you really?

It's true: You can buy Gator barbecue sauce, as well as Gator cologne, Gator suntan lotion, Gator liquid soap, even Gator toenail clippers. Not to mention Gator shorts, T-shirts and sweatshirts. (Actually, you can buy these types of merchandise associated with a number of schools.)

Yes, the marketing of college sports is a big deal: About \$2.5 billion of licensed college merchandise was sold in 1994.

Collegiate Licensing, an Atlanta company started in 1983 by former Tennessee football coach Bill Battle, is the nation's largest college licensing firm, representing 147 universities, conferences and bowl games. The company, with its staff of about 50 licensing agents, deals with dozens of manufacturers to make products bearing a university's logo and/or name.

Manufacturers pay a percentage of their sales—reportedly between 6 and 10 percent—to Collegiate Licensing, which takes its cut and passes along the rest to the member school.

A number of big-time schools license themselves independently, including Notre Dame, Florida and UCLA. Notre Dame is the licensing king, reportedly collecting about \$8 million in 1994. Exact figures are unavailable. Among Collegiate Licensing clients, Michigan is No. 1, also making more than \$5 million a year. Florida State is No. 2, reportedly collecting more than \$2.5 million in royalties.

The rest of Collegiate Licensing's top 10: North Carolina, Nebraska, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgetown, Tennessee, Wisconsin and Arkansas. ♦

DOWN AND OUT PATTERNS

• Some people have trouble separating fact from fiction. Just ask the sports information department at Alabama, which was flooded with requests for information about Forrest Gump, who was, of course, a fictional character. The Oscar-winning Forrest Gump was about a . . . uh . . . slow-witted guy who, among other things, played football at Alabama. We can only hope that no one calls the Alabama S.I.D. folks seeking information about the submariners portrayed in the movie *Crimson Tide*. (An aside: Gump wore No. 44 while he was at Alabama. The person who actually wore 44 during 1961-64 is Florida State defensive coordinator Mickey Andrews.)

• Seven teams will pass the 1,000-game plateau this season—Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Ohio State, Vanderbilt and West Virginia. Ten schools already have played 1,000 games, headed by Rutgers (1,064). Kentucky reaches the 1,000 mark against Vanderbilt (coincidentally, that will be the Commodores' 999th game; Vandy reaches 1,000 the next week against Louisiana Tech). Ohio State reaches 1,000 in its regular-season finale against Michigan; the Wolverines (1,029) have played the third-most games in history, behind Rutgers and Navy (1,039).

• You have to pity Northwestern State Coach Sam Goodwin and his staff. There are two sets of identical twins playing for the Demons. Jody and Joel Ferguson start at right guard and right tackle, respectively, and Terry and Teryl Williamson are reserves at fullback and defensive back, respectively.

• Running back Marquette Smith was the national high school player of the year in 1990 at Lake Howell High in the Orlando suburb of Casselberry. Amid much fanfare, Smith signed with Florida State. But things didn't work out for Smith in Tallahassee

and he transferred to Division I-AA Central Florida, in Orlando, before last season. Smith, who ran for 1,058 yards for the Knights last year, gets a chance to meet his old mates on September 23, when FSU hosts UCF. FSU isn't the only Division I-A power playing a I-AA school this season. Among the other "Why-is-this-game-being-played? For-monetary-reasons" mismatches: William & Mary at Virginia on September 2, Florida A&M at Miami on September 9, UT-Chattanooga at Auburn on September 9, and Middle Tennessee State at Texas A&M on November 18.

• It's doubtful you've heard of Washington fullback Richard Thomas, who rushed for 316 yards and four touchdowns last season. But while Thomas' on-field exploits belong in the unsung category, his off-field exploits are those of an All-America. Thomas has dyslexia, which impairs the ability to read. Yet he hasn't let it affect him in the classroom. He graduated in May in four years with a degree in history (his GPA was about 3.0). He will use his fifth year of eligibility in the fall, when he begins work on a second degree, this in sociology. In addition to his schoolwork and football, Thomas has a wife and a young daughter. He also found time to develop—along with two former Huskies teammates—a race-relations curriculum for students in junior and senior high. And he has been a volunteer at a Seattle-area orthopedics hospital for children and is involved in a campus group that tries to bridge racial barriers. ♦

BITTERSWEET MEMORIES

Autumn. A time for revelry.

The pageantry of college football. Crisp days. Bonfires. Parties. Pregame festivities. Marching bands. Campuses brimming with excitement. Go out and win one for ol' State U.

Usually, looking back is almost as much fun as partaking in the present.

Remember '90, when we rallied in the final minute to beat top-ranked Tech? Or '84, when we won the homecoming game on the field goal that bounded over the crossbar? Or the '77 conference title game, when we intercepted a pass at the goal line as the gun went off? And how about that game back in the '40s, the one the really old alums are always bringing up, when students decorated the train to Ann Arbor in school colors and stole the opposition's mascot?

Autumn. Ah, the memories.

This fall, though, looking back is gut-wrenching. Incredibly, 25 years have passed since the most somber season in college football history. It was in 1970, six weeks apart, that plane crashes involving the Wichita State and Marshall football programs killed a total of 106 persons (including 51 players). On October 2, one of two planes transporting the Wichita State Shockers to a game at Utah State crashed in the Colorado Rockies, killing the school's coach, athletic director and 14 players; on November 14, the entire 37-man Marshall Thundering Herd traveling roster died when the Herd's plane crashed near the Huntington, W.Va., airport runway as the team returned from a game at East Carolina.

Autumn. A time to reflect. ♦



CAUGHT ON THE FLY

Yo, out there: Playoff's a-comin'

Shed no tiers for Fly; a Division I-A playoff's a-comin' (because money talks and tradition walks).

■ Fly was *this*close to pickin' Ol' SC No. 1 goin' into the season, but then **John Robinson** told the Spies that he was thinkin' (his term, not Fly's) of startin' the season with **Brad Otton** and **Kyle Wachholtz** sharin' time at QB. Yo, Coach, good or bad, make a choice and then let the talent do the work all the way to Pasadena.

■ Fly's Top 5 (Nos. 1 and 2, please proceed directly to Tempe): 1. Florida; 2. TexA&M; 3. FSU; 4. Ol' SC; 5. Nebraska.

■ Tell Fly where you've heard this one before: First words outta Miami Coach **Butch Davis**' mouth (besides, "Who're **Jim Tressel** and **Sonny Lubick**?") were "We're gonna stop the trash-talk." Fly'll believe it when Fly sees (and doesn't hear) it.

■ Speaking of Miami, the Spies say ya can't ignore the 'Canes, if for no other reason than that D, but BC's *this*close to catchin' up and passin' Miami (and there's two words you won't see used in the same sentence as long as **Ryan Collins** is under center). This here program's on the ropes, and as one former Miamian used to say, "Mmmmmhow sweet it is."

■ The Spies say Illinois LB **Simeon Rice** is the obligatory defensive candidate for this season's Hypesman Trophy, but the real overstatements are gonna be reserved for legit candidates like TexA&M TB **Leeland McElroy**, FSU QB **Danny Kanell**, Nebraska QB **Tommie Frazier** and Florida QB **Danny Wuerffel** (Fly's preseason pick).

■ Fly can't decide which is a more welcome addition to the Big Eight: grass at Faurot Field or **Rick Neuheisel**.

■ Hey-yo, Fly can't help but be impressed by the good-hands people **Gary Moeller**'s put together up Ann Arbor way, but then has to ask: Coach, who's gonna get the ball to 'em?

■ They can talk about wide-open competition, but when the time comes to trust NU and **Dr. Tom**, Frazier'll be the quarterback and **Brook Berringer** can grab a spot on the sideline.

■ Speaking of Nebraska, when the 'Huskers did their off-season testin', really, really, really Big Red guard **Aaron Taylor** recorded a 29½-inch vertical jump and defensive tackle **Christian Peter** went 36½. Fly's not sure how that applies to protectin' Frazier or rushin' opposing QBs, but the thought of guys that size with that kinda ups is ... sc-c-cary.

■ **Paul Pasqualoni**, just how hot is that seat?

■ Fly hates to break it to Sooners fans (OK, Fly *loves* to break it), but don't look for a quick turnaround under **Howard Schnellenberger**. He's 54-56-2 since his national-championship season at Miami in '83, and he won (count 'em) two, three and three in his first three seasons at Louisville. Things won't get any easier in the Big Eight/12.

■ Speaking of not winnin' quickly enough, Fly hears UTex Coach **John Mackovic** took it especially hard when tailback **Priest Holmes** blew out his knee in spring drills because Texas Exes are gettin' impatient. Holmes was gonna be the guy to take the defensive pressure off QBs **Shea Morenz** and **James Brown**. Now freshman **Ricky Williams** or JC All-

America **Shon Mitchell** has to step in immediately ... or else, Coach.

■ Fly hears that with 11 starters gone, they're expectin' things to drop off at Penn State. The Spies say that means the Nittany wits'll settle for 11-1 or 10-2 outta JoePa's team. P-p-pressure, **Wally Richardson**, what p-p-pressure?

■ Oregon was Fly's feel-good story of last season. And if that wasn't weird enough, gettaloada this: Oregon State has the talent (honest) and sched-

ule to—be still Fly's heart (shaddup!)—make a run for the Roses.

■ Fly's Fearless Forecast: This is the year the SEC West gets a champion not named Alabama. Here's the biggest (but not the only) reason: **Brian Burgdorf**, even if he has four receivers to throw to, ain't **Jay Barker**. (And it doesn't help that the Tuscaloosa P.D. was in charge of the Tide's off-season workouts.)

■ Hey, didn't you used to be the SWC? (Things're so bad for this here conference's last waltz, Hoss, that Dallas-based Mobil paid \$1 mil *not* to be the title sponsor of the Cotton Bowl.)

■ It's a lot harder to get sentimental about the end of the WAC as you know it (which is barely), but here's a bon voyage that warms Fly's heart (shaddup!): BYU begins the season with an inexperienced QB (JC transfer **Steve Sarkisian**) and, hold everything, an almost equally inexperienced offensive line.

■ Finally, things've been quiet (too quiet for Fly's likin') in South Bend, but the Spies say Notre Dame's neck-deep into its switch to an attacking defense. The Irish D is sans seven starters from last season, which in Fly's mind (shaddup!) makes for a bad combo on the toast-o-meter: inexperienced players learnin' a new scheme. ♦



New Miami Coach Butch Davis promises less talk from his players. We'll wait and see.

SCOUTING THE



Ivan
MAISEL

Welcome to 1995, the season that can't end soon enough. Not one kick has gone off, not one cheerleader has been tossed sky high and already the collective toes of college football are tapping. Next year will be the year of the Big 12, the expanded Western Athletic Conference and Conference USA, which should be the favorite of a certain newspaper. College football will be on every network except The Sci-Fi Channel.

At first glance, this season looks to be a lame duck, lammer than a Democrat in the U.S. Senate, lammer than a Northwestern-Purdue game in mid-November. The entire nation has a case of attention-deficit disorder. The Southwest Conference has been buried in 49 states. Shoot, even the people in Texas refer to the league's commissioner, Kyle Kallander, as a "caretaker." Last time we checked, caretakers keep cemeteries looking pretty.

A cynical attitude, said former SWC commissioner Steve Hatchell. "It's clear there's excitement," said Hatchell, who will be commissioner of the Big 12. "Talk to coaches, players, officials—people are gearing up for the last of the Southwest Conference."

The SWC will conclude its football business December 2, when Texas visits Texas A&M. The Big Eight already sounds undersized. Besides, the only familiar face in the conference belongs to Nebraska boss Tom Osborne. The league has four new coaches this season and four new teams next season. Can't wait to see what they do in 1997.

No league will have changed more from January to September than the Big Eight, and all because Bill McCartney decided to walk through an escape hatch in his 15-year contract at Colorado. The school hired Rick Neuheisel over three other assistants, one of whom, Bob Simmons, received so much publicity for *not* getting the job that he came to the attention of Oklahoma State, which hired him to replace Pat Jones. Another finalist, defensive coordinator Mike Hankwitz, left the Buffaloes to work for Glen Mason at Kansas.

"The final Big Eight season may be the most memorable," said Kansas State Coach



Not too many quarterbacks out there have accomplished a whole lot, but Nebraska's Tommie Frazier surely has—even if his meaningful time on the field last season amounted to a mere 15 minutes.

Bill Snyder, who along with Osborne and Mason are the only league coaches with more than one year of Big Eight experience. "It is my hope that it is a great final season for the entire conference. What a great history it has had."

The names that dominated college football last season have disappeared. The Heisman Trophy winner, Colorado's Rashaan Salaam, left early. So did the Lombardi Award winner, Miami's Warren Sapp. The NFL picked 10 quarterbacks in the first four rounds. Other than Nebraska's Tommie Frazier, who played 15 meaningful minutes last season, is there a quarterback out there who has actually

done something?

All of which means, of course, that two weeks after the season starts you will become familiar with a whole new cast of stars, and some heretofore anonymous young men will be big names by the time you carve the Thanksgiving turkey. Keep an eye on Leeland McElroy, the Texas A&M tailback, but be quick about it. He is. Reacquaint yourself with Tedy Bruschi, the Arizona defensive end. Say hello to the Danny Boys, Wuerffel of Florida and Kanell of Florida State. Washington wants you to know quarterback Damon Huard.

And there are dozens of others. All of this hand-wringing will cease the last weekend

NATION

At first glance, 1995 season seems like a lame-duck year—but take another look

in August. On Saturday, September 2, when the majority of Division I-A begins the 127th season of college football, new heroes will emerge, new powerhouses will power and old foes will stare each other down again. But even if this season never engulfs you in hysteria, hang in there through the bowl games. As a preview of the new, improved version of college football, on January 2, 1996, the Bowl Alliance and the Fiesta Bowl are promising a No. 1 vs. No. 2 matchup, exclusive of the Big Ten and Pacific-10 champions, who manage to exclude themselves most of the time anyway.

WE'RE GETTING CLOSER

The Bowl Coalition is gone, choked to death on its own red tape. Now there is the Bowl Alliance, which actually is easier to understand. Quirks remain, chief among them that the Pacific-10 and Big Ten conferences will continue football's version of the Flat Earth Society, the Rose Bowl.

Now that Penn State has been denied a chance to play for the national championship because of the Big Ten's commitment to Pasadena, there appears to be a crack in the once-solid belief that the Rose Bowl is best and everything else is not.

Conferences committing their champions to specific bowls is what made the postseason the object of ridicule in recent years. The major I-A conferences not involved with the Rose Bowl banded together, selected three bowls and put in place a cogent system. The champions of the Atlantic Coast, Big Eight, Big East and Southeastern conferences, along with two at-large teams, will play in the Fiesta, Sugar and Orange bowls. Those games will alternate the game they host. This season, for instance, the Fiesta will get the top two choices. The Orange will get picks three and five and the Sugar will get four and six.

The games will pay significantly higher awards to the participating schools because they won't be in competition with one another on television. The four-vs.-six game will be staged on New Year's Eve. The three-vs.-five game will be played New Year's Night, with the national championship matchup scheduled for January 2. The Fiesta Bowl will pay an astounding \$12 million per team this season, or double the Rose Bowl's payout. It's not a playoff, but

it's closer than ever. The bowl system remains alive, yet reconfigured to make more money for everyone participating. There's a lot to like about that.

TOP WHIPPERSNAPPERS

Five best coaches under 40:

1. **Terry Bowden**, Auburn: He has the best chance to reach 300 wins. He's got 84 at age 39. His daddy, who has 249 career victories, had 31 at that age.

2. **Rick Neuheisel**, Colorado: The 34-year-old possesses a mind for offense and knows how to communicate it.

3. **Mark Richt**, Florida State: The Seminoles' offensive coordinator is a rising star at age 35.

4. **Turner Gill**, Nebraska: A quarterback coach who knows the job, Gill, who turns 33 in August, has the name to attract coaching offers.

5. **Ron Cooper**, Louisville: An excellent motivator who turned Eastern Michigan around, the 34-year-old Cooper, who is four days younger than Neuheisel and thus the youngest Division I-A boss, could sell black socks to Joe Paterno.

SWAN SONG

These five underclassmen will be playing on Sundays in 1996:

1. **Leeland McElroy**, Texas A&M junior tailback: He's so quick, he may get to the NFL by December.

2. **Lawrence Phillips**, Nebraska junior running back: Hidden behind Frazier for publicity, but the right people know who he is.

3. **Willie Anderson**, Auburn junior offensive tackle: At 6-foot-6 and 306 pounds, Anderson will turn potential into proof-positive this season.

4. **Mike Adams**, Texas junior wide receiver: If he is healthy after a knee injury in '94, he is gone.

5. **Lawyer Milloy**, Washington junior free safety: Plays center field for the Huskies in two sports (baseball and football).

BIGGER, BETTER THINGS

For the first time in three seasons, two veteran coaches left to become coaches in the NFL.

Dennis Erickson returned home by accepting the Seattle Seahawks job. The word always had been that Rich Brooks would go from Oregon to Los Angeles—to coach UCLA, not the Rams. He won't be in

L.A. after all, as the Rams have moved to St. Louis.

Anyway, the three years that passed without anyone making the leap to the pros was an anomaly. In the past few years, at least one coach per annum had left the college ranks for the NFL. Their track records in the NFL have been remarkably good. Jimmy Johnson won two Super Bowls with Dallas and Bobby Ross has lost one with San Diego. Dennis Green has led Minnesota to a pair of NFC Central titles. Jack Pardee took Houston to the playoffs four consecutive years before taking them apart. Dick MacPherson never had a chance at New England. New ownership tossed him out after two seasons.

What does that mean for Erickson and Brooks? Not much, other than good coaches excel regardless of the level.



Texas junior Mike Adams is a man to watch on Saturdays in '95—and maybe on Sundays in '96.

IT'S LIKE YOU NEVER LEFT

There are no more "what-ifs" for Auburn, Texas A&M and Washington. They are eligible for bowls again, paroled from the NCAA postseason jail that, in the case of the first two, had little effect. If anything, the Tigers are better off now than when the NCAA gave them a two-year postseason probation. Coach Terry Bowden used the penalty to great advantage. He focused the attention of his players inward, betting on the fact that the rest of the country would ignore them. Auburn won 20 consecutive

Continued

games over two seasons without ever reaching No. 1, which must be some sort of record.

Texas A&M experienced a similar vacuum last season, going 10-0-1 without even a mention of No. 1. Twice the Aggies won a game but fell in the polls. In fact, they never entered the AP Top 5, which must be a record for an undefeated team from a major conference. But with a stellar defense, an experienced quarterback in Corey Pullig and All-America kick returner/tailback Leeland McElroy, Texas A&M should have no problem gaining recognition entering this season. Just check out page 49.

Washington never regained its balance after the NCAA and Pacific-10 Conference knocked the Huskies off the map the past two seasons. In 1993, the Huskies discovered anger will work for only so many weeks. Fueled by the defiant August resignation of coach Don James, Washington began the season 4-1 but finished 7-4, a record it repeated last season. Third-year Coach Jim Lambright, known as a defensive whiz, has a veteran defense, but the Huskies allowed 203 rushing yards per game last year. Free safety Lawyer Milloy is the best in the West.

HEISMAN FIVE

Let the hype begin! Following are five leading contenders for college football's top trophy:

1. **Tommie Frazier**, Nebraska senior quarterback: A No. 1 ring and America's heart—there's only one trophy left to win.

2. **Leeland McElroy**, Texas A&M junior tailback: High-profile burner on high-profile team.

3. **Danny Wuerffel**, Florida junior quarterback: Should have the numbers and the wins, if Coach Steve Spurrier doesn't yank him.

4. **Stephen Davis**, Auburn senior tailback: Ten years after Bo. But will Terry Bowden pass too much?

5. **Tim Biakabutuka**, Michigan junior tailback: A skit-scat back with a veteran line to make holes for him.

OLD, WISE AND GOOD

Five best coaches over 60.

1. **Joe Paterno**, Penn State: He looks the same, but nobody has changed with the times better than the 68-year-old.

2. **Eddie Robinson**, Grambling: The 76-year-old is a great coach and a better man.

3. **Bobby Bowden**, Florida State: Bowden, 65, has won a combined 85 games in the past eight seasons.

4. **LaVell Edwards**, Brigham Young: The 64-year-old has produced the best group of quarterbacks of any school over the past 15 years.

5. **Joe Moore**, Notre Dame offensive line: The 63-year-old is one of the best teachers on campus.

BIG MEN ON CAMPUS

Ten most influential people in college football:

1. **Len DeLuca**, CBS Sports vice president of programming: His raid of the Southeastern Conference from the College Football Association TV package

set off the eruption of change that will take place in 1996.

2. **Joe Paterno**, Penn State coach: A winner on the field, the sport's conscience off it.

3. **Roy Kramer**, Southeastern Conference commissioner: Shrewd master of the NCAA bureaucracy, Kramer's league markets its product better than any.

4. (tie) **David Downs/Tony Petitti**, ABC Sports: These programming entities possess everyone's over-the-air rights (except Notre Dame) through the end of the season.

6. **Lou Holtz**, Notre Dame coach: He has the bulkiest pulpit.

7. **Gene Corrigan**, Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner: Invaluable experience, current NCAA president.



When it comes to the coaching world's golden oldies, Joe Paterno tops the charts. The Penn State coach is a winner and the game's conscience.

knows everyone, supreme schmoozer.

8. **John Wildhack**, ESPN: Programming chief of the network where the sport congregates when the games end Saturday night.

9. **Steve Hatchell**, Big 12 commissioner: Found homes for Southwest Conference schools with minimal rancor. Key player in assembling the Bowl Alliance.

10. **Donnie Duncan**, Oklahoma athletic director: Member of now-dormant NCAA playoff committee. Knows every nook of the business.

BOFFO OR BOZO?

If a few of the new coaches for 1995 were directing movies...

Bad Boys—Butch Davis takes on a box-office smash, but does it have legs?

Legend of the Fall—From Howard Schnellenberger's autobiographical script.

The Cowboy Way—Expect Bob Simmons to sink as fast as this Woody Harrelson-

Kiefer Sutherland epic. Oklahoma State needs time.

Crimson Tide—Gerry DiNardo's treatment of a man plagued by the same demons no matter where he coaches.

Apollo 13, *Michigan State 3*—Even a beat-up spaceship will handle Nick Saban's Spartans.

Home Alone 3: Lost in Boulder—Rick Neuheisel takes over Macaulay Culkin's role as the precocious elfin who outwits the older, dumber bad guys.

CHOOSE YOUR FOE CAREFULLY

Homecoming means many things across a campus. To the coach, it traditionally has

meant patsy, and we don't mean Cline. Tradition in the Sun Belt has dictated that the homecoming opponent be easier than the rules for Go Fish. As long as those alums are on campus, give them what they want—a victory. Maybe they'll feel so good they'll go home and give what the school wants—a check.

THE SPORTING NEWS surveyed Division I-A schools to find out which opponent they had scheduled for Homecoming. The results are not surprising. Georgia Tech plays four ACC road games this fall. The Yellow Jackets are the Homecoming foe at three of the stops: Duke, Florida State and Wake Forest. In case you had forgotten, Georgia Tech went 1-10 last season and failed to win an ACC game. And this is a program that shared the national title in 1990.

The Yellow Jackets aren't the only school that foes want to pick a fight with. Kentucky, 1-10 a year ago, will be the Homecoming opponent at Georgia and Mississippi State. Temple, 2-9 last season, will be the main course at Syracuse and East Carolina. The Pirates know well of Homecoming.

"We had four Homecomings (last season), I think," East Carolina Coach Steve Logan said. "We had Auburn on the ropes (before losing, 38-21). We beat South Carolina, we had our own and Tulsa. We enjoyed it. Our kids got a kick out of it. I used it like any coach would."

Logan used it for what being the Homecoming opponent implies. "They're sure they're going to beat us," he said. "That's obvious. We were 2-9 the year before (in 1993). That's obvious. Auburn didn't pick Alabama."

The Pirates shouldn't have been chosen with an easy victory in mind. They went 3-1

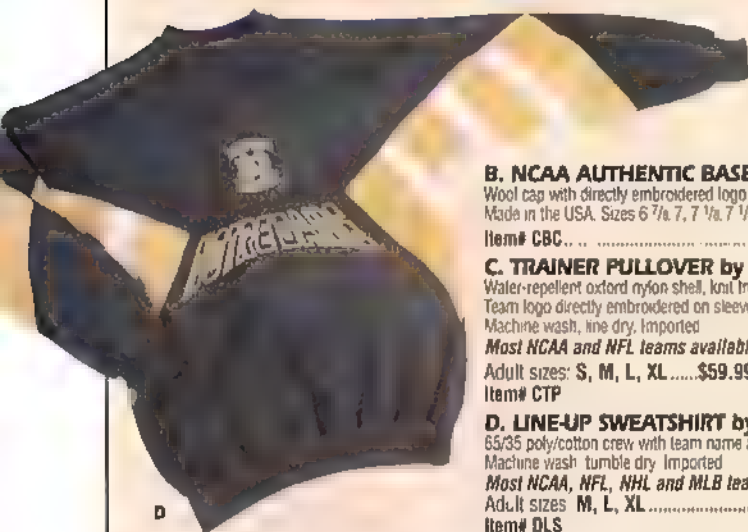
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on Homecoming weekends (including their own) last season on the way to a 7-5 record and Liberty Bowl berth.

Georgia Tech boss George O'Leary hopes for the same effect. "I like to ruin Homecomings," he said. "I'd much rather have to play before a packed stadium. . . . There's nothing better than flying home after ruining Homecoming for 60,000 people."

One Georgia Tech assistant put it more bluntly. "Duke and Wake made a mistake," he said.

HOMECOMING FODDER?

Every school has a Homecoming, even the patsies. This is their chance to kick sand in the face of some weakling. So who do some of college football's weak sisters play? Some of the foes will surprise you

Weakling (1994 record)	Homecoming foe
Akron (1-10)	Ohio
Arkansas State (1-10)	Jacksonville State
Army (4-7)	Colgate
Cincinnati (2-8-1)	Memphis
Georgia Tech (1-10)	Clemson
Houston (1-10)	Texas
Iowa State (0-10-1)	Colorado
Kent (2-9)	Western Michigan
Kentucky (1-10)	Louisiana State
Louisiana Tech (3-8)	Nevada
Minnesota (3-8)	Northwestern
Missouri (3-8-1)	Oklahoma State
Navy (3-8)	Villanova
New Mexico State (3-8)	Utah State
Northeast Louisiana (3-8)	Central Florida
Northwestern (3-7-1)	Wisconsin
Ohio (0-11)	Western Michigan
Oklahoma State (3-7-1)	Kansas State
Oregon State (4-7)	California
Purdue (4-5-2)	Penn State
San Jose State (3-8)	UNLV
Southern Methodist (1-9-1)	Baylor
Temple (2-9)	Pittsburgh
Texas-El Paso (3-7-1)	Tulsa
Tulane (1-10)	Memphis
Vanderbilt (5-6)	Georgia

AS THE COACHING CAROUSEL TURNS

Jackie Sherrill is 0-6 against his alma mater, Alabama. . . . Oklahoma has gone six seasons without a consensus All-America, the Sooners' longest drought since 1939-47. That's why **Howard Schnellenberger** has a new address. At the other end, Notre Dame has had a consensus All-America eight consecutive years, Texas A&M five. . . . Ohio State has gone 10 seasons since its last Rose Bowl berth, but don't jump on **John Cooper** again. **Woody Hayes** had an 10-year drought (1957-66). Cooper is only entering his eighth season in Columbus. . . .

Ed Orgeron, the former Miami assistant (1989-92) who resigned from the 'Canes' staff after a barroom fight in Baton Rouge, La., has joined the Syracuse staff as defensive line coach. Orangemen boss **Paul Pasqualoni** has only two assistants, quarterback coach **Kevin Rogers** and offensive coordinator/offensive line coach **George DeLeone**, left from his original staff in 1991.

THEY STILL DOUBT HIM

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne never had been able to completely satisfy Cornhuskers fans until January 1, when Nebraska rallied to defeat Miami, 24-17, in the Orange Bowl to win the national title. But just when a national championship might quiet the critics, Osborne bashers have produced statistical evidence that the coach doesn't measure up.

Osborne began last season with the best winning percentage among active coaches in Division I-A (.811). In fact, Osborne had the only percentage above .800. But after a 13-0 season, the 22-year veteran fell to second.

How'd that happen? Well, Texas A&M's R.C. Slocum, who began last season at .798, second to Osborne, went 10-0-1. That raised Slocum's career record to 59-12-2 (.822). Osborne (219-47-3) rose only to .820.

SCORES TO REMEMBER

Football scores collect in the memory, perhaps because only certain numbers are utilized. Basketball scores, multiples of 1, 2 or 3, have no familiar range. But the fan who hears the football final score of 21-17 or, say, 28-27, already has an idea of what happened. Some scores forever will bring to mind one game because of the importance of the outcome. Other scores stand out as a monument to the unusual circumstances that produced them. Match this list of 10 famous scores in college football with your own.

10-10: Notre Dame-Michigan State, 1966: The tie that roared.

35-31: Nebraska-Oklahoma, 1971: Johnny Rodgers returned that punt early in the game, but it still stands out.

17-16: Good for USC over Ohio State in the Rose Bowl from the '79 season, bad for Florida State against Miami in 1991, and wonderful for Auburn in 1972. The Tigers blocked two punts in the fourth quarter and returned both for touchdowns to defeat No. 2 Alabama.

0-0: In the first major post-war game, Notre Dame and Army all but literally fought to a scoreless tie in Yankee Stadium in 1946.

15-14: Texas-Arkansas, 1969: Wishbone star James Street threw a late bomb, for

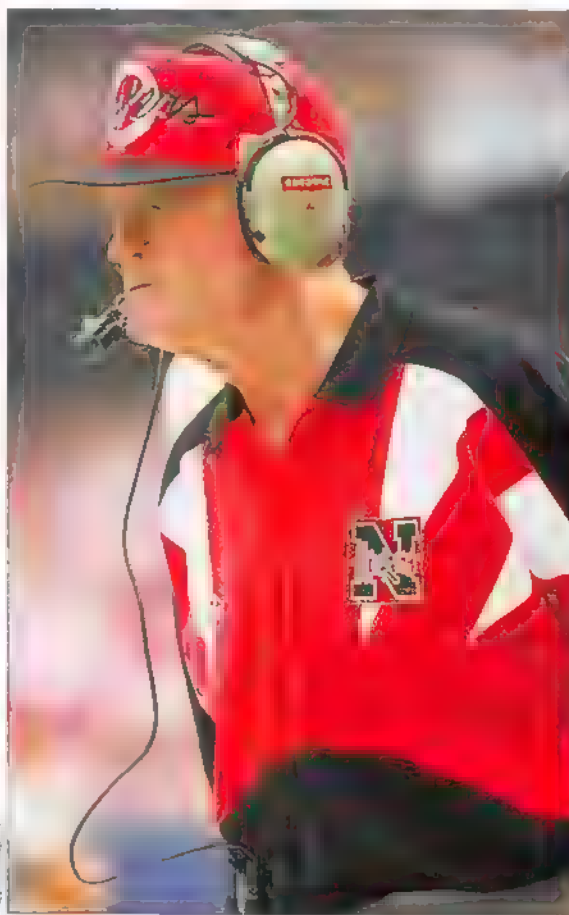
heaven's sake, and President Nixon proclaimed the Longhorns No. 1.

20-14: SMU-TCU, 1935: Sammy Baugh couldn't sling enough to beat the Mustangs.

26-21: Georgia-Florida, 1980: Lindsay Scott took Buck Belue's pass 93 yards for a touchdown and put the Bulldogs on top en route to No. 1.

24-23: Not a pretty memory in Tuscaloosa. Notre Dame beat Alabama for No. 1 in the 1973 Sugar Bowl, and Florida beat the Crimson Tide by the same score in the 1994 SEC Championship Game.

12-10: Iowa-Michigan, 1985: Rob



Strange but true: Nebraska's Tom Osborne slipped to No. 2 on the winning-percentage list after directing the 'Huskers to a 13-0 record.

Houghtlin kicked four field goals, which made him a Hawkeyes hero forever.

25-20: Cal-Stanford, 1982: Who can forget Kevin Moen's jaunt through the Stanford band?

WHILE WE'RE THINKING OF IT . . .

1. On September 30 against Rice, Army will commemorate the 50th anniversary of its undefeated national championship squad of 1945 that featured Mr. Inside and Mr. Outside, Doc Blanchard and Glenn Davis. Also, the duo and other players from the 1944 (another Army national title) and 1946 squads will be honored for a three-year period that saw the Cadets post a 27-0-1 mark under coach Earl Blaik.

2. Miami (Ohio) and Cincinnati will play for the 100th time on September 23, while North Carolina and Virginia do likewise on October 7.

3. The Big Ten is celebrating its centennial (of the league, not of its last national championship).

4. Speaking of the Big Ten, New Year's Day 1996 will mark the 50th anniversary of the longest standing tradition of any college conference and bowl association, the agreement between the Big Ten and Pac-10 with the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association for the annual Rose Bowl. Illinois beat UCLA on January 1, 1947, to kick off the Big Ten-Pac-10 Rose Bowl merger.

DON'T TOUCH THAT CLICKER

Following is must-watch TV:

September 2: Miami at UCLA—The Hurricanes debut under Butch Davis and try to stop a two-game losing streak against the Pac-10.

September 30: Notre Dame at Ohio State—It's the 60th anniversary of the first Game of the Century. In a battle of unbeatens, Irish reserve quarterback Bill Shakespeare threw a touchdown pass in the last 30 seconds to beat the Buckeyes, 18-13. Notre Dame hopes Ron Powlus doesn't need to provide such heroics this time around.

October 7: Miami at Florida State—Enough said

October 14: Florida at Auburn—Steve Spurrier is 1-6-1 against the Bowdens, father and son.

October 21: USC at Notre Dame—Troy doesn't return to glory until Troy returns to the win column against the Irish. That's 0-11-1, if you're keeping score at home.

October 28: Florida AT Georgia, not Florida vs. Georgia—The Bulldogs played in Gainesville last season while the Gator Bowl underwent renovations. This year, the Gators go to Athens for the first time since 1932. Next year, the series will resume in Jacksonville

October 28: Nebraska at Colorado—It really was 1990 when the Buffaloes last beat the Cornhuskers.

November 18: Michigan at Penn State—Big Ten expansion means the Wolverines close with the Nittany Lions and Ohio State Yikes!

November 18: Alabama at Auburn—The Crimson Tide is 0-for-Jordan-Hare Stadium.

November 25: Florida State at Florida—see Florida at Auburn.

December 2: Texas at Texas A&M—Say farewell to the SWC and hello to the No. 1 Aggies. ♦

Ivan Maisel covers college football for New York Newsday and writes a weekly college football column for THE SPORTING NEWS.



Notre Dame fans might be wondering if the Fighting Irish will need Shakespeare-like theatrics from Ron Powlus to defeat Ohio State.



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I WANT YOU

ILLUSTRATION BY R.J. SHAY

Coach Bobby Bowden, Florida State recruiters usually get their man in tense hunt for talent

THE SPORTING NEWS wanted to look at how a traditional college football power recruits, and Florida State provided an intriguing glimpse of the process during the 1994-95 school year. Over the past decade, the Seminoles consistently have graded highly in the speculative (and subjective) world of recruiting analysis. More significantly, however, Florida State's success is a testament to its ability to fill its needs with talented athletes. The Seminoles' 86-11-1 record (.883 winning percentage) since 1987 speaks for itself.

By ALAN SCHMADTKE

It always comes back to Bobby Bowden. They can talk about the facilities, which are being upgraded all around the athletic department, and

they can sell an NCAA-record eight consecutive 10-victory seasons paired with eight straight Top 5 finishes in the Associated Press poll. But when Florida State's football coaches sit down with parents of high school prospects with the intention of luring their fast and/or hard-hitting sons to Tallahassee, they always come back to the same point of persuasion: Bowden.

Bowden likes people. He loves his privacy but enjoys others. He has been a head coach for four decades, and he admits his life revolves around his football program at Florida State. But he can—and will—talk to anyone about anything. If he doesn't understand the subject, he still is genuinely interested in what someone else knows.

Those are his gifts. This is why Florida

State, which fielded a football team that went 0-11 in 1973 and subsequently formed a committee to study disbanding the sport, is overrun with blue-chip recruits every season.

"Florida State and Florida State recruiting is Bobby Bowden," Seminoles recruiting coordinator Ronnie Cottrell says. "The last 10 years, 15 years, we've always done well on the field, and the last eight years we've been great. We talk about that all the time, the tradition we're building here and all the success we've had."

"But when you're talking about things that are really important, education and life experiences, we always ask the parents, 'Would you rather your son play football anywhere, or would you rather him play for

Bobby Bowden?"

There were times when such selling tactics were not the ace in the hole they are now for Florida State. Bowden's early years at FSU—indeed, some points during today's era—were spent in the shadow of the University of Florida. Thanks to their tradition and resources, the Gators had a stranglehold on the state.

During the six seasons Bowden spent at West Virginia, where he coached before coming to FSU in 1976, he toiled knowing that no matter where he turned, Pittsburgh and Penn State already had left a mark. Rarely does that happen now with Bowden, who turns 66 in November and has grown to become the embodiment of Florida State.

"We're on TV almost every week, and even when we're not, we get on a lot of the highlights," Bowden says. "That comes back to winning. If you win, people are interested in you. If we weren't winning, it would be harder to recruit. But we're doing all right."

When it comes to luring top players to Tallahassee, Cottrell and Co. play on Bowden's success, name and reputation for all they're worth. With Bowden playing master of the empire, delegating keenly and religiously, the Seminoles consistently have reeled in recruiting classes that have matched their football finishes. It is, Bowden says, a vicious cycle. One feeds off the other, each needing the other to succeed.

AND THEN THERE WERE NAMES

Lists. All kinds of lists. Guys from Miami, central Florida and all over the Southeast. They're all on paper, and at FSU they go from paper to computer quickly. This is where recruiting begins, almost as soon as the previous season's freshman class is sewed up on National Signing Day every February.

FSU's recruiting starts with names, nearly 2,000, which come in the form of several lengthy lists of sophomore, junior and senior players purchased by the school from various recruiting analysts around the country. The first to arrive on Cottrell's desk every year comes from Bill Buchalter, a longtime sports writer at the *Orlando Sentinel* who, in his spare time, publishes "name books" of college prospects. Buchalter's list, and those of others such as Dick Laskola, detail class, height, weight, speed and high school for each prospect.

Some lists are more detailed than others, some more accurate. Cottrell won't divulge how much he pays for the lists, nor which ones he respects most.

Buchalter says he sells three different name books (of players in Florida, the Southeast and around the country) to 25-35 Division I-A programs annually, including most in the Top 25. Some schools place orders more consistently than others, he says, "and some of them even pay their bill."

Cottrell, through his own conversations and memory, recognizes the names of about 75 percent of the players on his master list. He already knows which players probably will be considered blue-chip recruits and which are long shots to play at

FSU's level. Nevertheless, he must let the process run its course.

The whittling process begins in May, during the evaluation period at high schools. Each spring, Florida State's coaches visit every football-playing high school in Florida—all 373 of them—and 95 percent of the 324 Georgia high schools that play football. Many visits are targeted to when the high schools are conducting spring practice, but each trip is similar in several regards. FSU's coaches spend most of each visit watching football video at the high school and meeting with administrators to get a copy of a player's transcript. By fall, FSU coaches will have seen film on almost every player on their name list and will have watched probably 300 others at practice.

"Getting the transcripts is the single hardest part of the whole process in terms of getting information," says Rick Jones, who as a student assistant at FSU used to help Cottrell gather information on recruits.

For obvious reasons, the transcript is crucial. A prospect must achieve a 2.0 (out of 4.0) grade-point average in 11 core courses and a 700 on the SAT or 17 on the ACT to qualify for freshman eligibility under NCAA standards. (Academic requirements will be toughened for those entering universities in '96.) Moreover, before a prospect can take an official visit to a school, the college must have a copy of his transcript. There have been times when a prospect was mid-flight to Tallahassee while FSU officials scrambled to get a faxed copy of his transcript. For Florida State to receive a transcript, the player and his parents must sign a release. Cottrell includes FSU's release on a questionnaire he sends to each recruit. It's among the first pieces of literature a recruit receives from the Seminoles.

By the start of the football season in early September, FSU's list of names is trimmed to a manageable 800. Most names are pared from the list because of academic concerns; others are lopped off because they can't play at FSU's level. Cottrell's office assistants make sure the remaining 800 prospects receive weekly mailings, including a note from Bowden about the prior week's game and preparation. In the meantime, coaches are trying to cut the list further every day.

Cottrell, entering his sixth season as recruiting coordinator, is Bowden's master puppeteer, pulling assistant coaches here and there. Bowden trusts all of his assistants implicitly and respects their judgment of talent and character—and of which players the Seminoles should pursue.

Cottrell has each position coach give him a list of players he wants. At about the same time, each assistant is asked to fill out a survey of the number of players the Seminoles should sign for each position, such as five offensive linemen, two tailbacks, three defensive backs, etc. Cottrell averages the surveys and gives the results to Bowden, who consults his depth chart, notes how many seniors will depart and how many scholarships he will be able to award. He then returns a breakdown of that year's recruiting class to Cottrell.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

With two quarterbacks, Danny Kanell and Jon Stark, beginning their junior seasons and only one other signal-caller, red-shirt freshman Thad Busby, on scholarship in 1994, Bowden made quarterback the Seminoles' top recruiting priority.

Cottrell remembers the day in the summer of '94 when Bowden showed him a letter the coach had received several years ago from a former quarterback at West Virginia. The letter came with a snapshot of the former player, Dan Kendra Jr., with his son, Dan III, sitting on his shoulders at Mountaineer Field.

"Wouldn't it be nice," the letter read, "for Danny and me both to have played for Bobby Bowden?"

At the time the picture was taken, the boy was not yet a teenager. But by last summer, Dan III had grown and developed into one of the top high school quarterback prospects in the country at Bethlehem (Pa.) Catholic.

"I'd already written my speech for recruiter of the year," Cottrell says. "I mean, it was written. We had it sewed up."

Not so fast. Yes, FSU had an in with the Kendras, but "little Dan" still lived in Pennsylvania, where he shared friendships with Penn State supporters. What's more, he was just one player in a class projected to grow to 25. The battle for Kendra was just one of the obstacles FSU would face during what would prove to be a rough year.

Although the Seminoles were coming off their first national championship season, the aftermath was not enjoyable. Offensive coordinator Brad Scott got the coaching job at the University of South Carolina and took three assistants with him. The moves represented the most turnover at one time for Bowden in his 18 years at Florida State.

But turnover was just the beginning of the bad news. In May, *Sports Illustrated* made the Seminoles cover boys again, but this time for participating in an illegal agent-funded shopping spree at a Tallahassee Foot Locker store during the 1993 season. The school launched an immediate internal investigation.

For FSU and Bowden, owners of squeaky-clean reputations, the news becomes grist for every rival's recruiting mill. The words "NCAA," "probation" and "retirement" became commonly linked to FSU on the recruiting trail. Bowden's age has been a constant companion for FSU's recruiters for several years.

Then, when the season finally started, FSU didn't get any help from rivals Florida or Miami. The Gators were preseason No. 1 for the first time and held that ranking until mid-October. After Miami picked off three Kanell passes and beat the Seminoles, 34-20, on October 8, both Miami and Florida were ahead of FSU in the polls.

THE SEASON

By early October, FSU coaches have pared their list of names to 500. Academic concerns further trim the list, and as more players are seen, more are dropped.

Continued

Cottrell and the other assistants assign number grades to the remaining names. "Can't miss" players are assigned a 1, "top level" Division I players get a 2 and "other" Division I players get a 3. FSU isn't interested in players who get 4s and 5s.

Starting in October, under NCAA rules, coaches are allowed to watch high school players play in a game. Thus, every Friday in October and November, FSU coaches fan out to see the top prospects. Coaches also watch a lot of film to further pare the prospect list.

Under NCAA rules, a university is limited to seven in-person contacts per prospect—and those seven contacts can come only during specified "contact periods." There also is a limit on phone calls to a prospect. There is no limit on the number of letters that can be mailed to a prospect, though.

'Coach, we've got him. He wants to come.' He said, 'Have we committed to him? Have we offered him a scholarship?' 'No.' 'We ain't taking him.'

"Coach Bowden said, 'Ronnie, if he doesn't listen to me now, he won't listen to me when he gets here. If he doesn't respect me now, he's not going to give any of us any respect when he gets here.' He went somewhere else, but he was just the way Coach Bowden said. We read all the time where the player was in and out of the doghouse."

Such happenings aren't Bowden's only idiosyncrasy. Once it becomes allowable in October for college coaches to watch prospects play in person, Bowden refrains from making such trips and demands that his offensive and defensive coordinators not wander off on the Friday before an FSU road game. Bowden avoids watching

Where do I go?

The recruiting responsibilities for each Florida State assistant (unless specified, the area is in Florida):

CHUCK AMATO (defensive line): Miami; Key West; Pennsylvania/New Jersey/New York

MICKEY ANDREWS (defensive coordinator): Alabama, Mississippi, the Florida panhandle west of Tallahassee

JEFF BOWDEN (wide receivers): Jacksonville, north Florida

RONNIE COTTRELL (recruiting coordinator and middle linebackers): Tallahassee area, plus various out-of-state areas

JIM GLADDEN (outside linebackers): Georgia/North and South Carolina; the Florida panhandle east of Tallahassee

ODELL HAGGINS (nose tackles): Five counties—Polk, Lee, DeSoto, Charlotte and Collier

JIMMY HEGGINS (offensive line): Tampa Bay area, including Manatee, Hillsborough, Pinellas and Sarasota counties

MARK RICHT (offensive coordinator): Three counties—Broward, Palm Beach and Indian River

BILLY SEXTON (running backs): Orlando, Daytona Beach; the "Cape Coast" (Melbourne-Cocoa Beach-Cape Canaveral area), Lake and Sumter counties



Florida State assistant coaches/recruiters (from left) Ronnie Cottrell, Odell Haggins, Jim Gladden and Jeff Bowden check, double-check and recheck their lists of the nation's premier high school talent.

On Saturdays, a couple of hours before a home game, Bowden addresses his potential recruits with a typical spiel. For many of the players, it's their first face-to-face meeting with Bowden, although the intensity and personal nature isn't what it will be later in the prospect's home. That's not to say the pregame chat isn't significant. Although it might be mundane to the players, to Bowden it's a time of serious examination.

"You can just tell things about people by talking to them," Bowden says. "You can see if they're interested or not."

Says Cottrell: "We recruited one player, a tailback who went to a Big East school. Coach Bowden was speaking during visiting day, and the guy talked all the way through Coach Bowden's speech. Coach Bowden came to me after it was over and said, 'Ronnie, I just want you to know this: We are not taking this young man.' I said,

prospects in person because he usually ends up signing autographs instead of evaluating talent.

On the days of home games, FSU, like every other college, hosts prospects making unofficial visits to its campus. Most of those prospects still on FSU's list are invited, and often a flock of players who have little chance of playing at FSU's level show up to watch the game. But recruiting is a game of visibility, and Bowden encourages high school players from all over to visit Tallahassee and FSU's newly expanded Doak Campbell Stadium.

What many Floridians consider the most important game of the season—Florida-FSU—takes place every Thanksgiving weekend. A game mandated in the 1960s by the threat of gubernatorial action has blossomed into an annual Southern shootout with national championship implications.

And with major recruiting implications—or so it is said.

"People have this impression that if we beat Florida, we're getting all these players. Or if they beat us, they're getting them all," longtime FSU assistant Jim Gladden says. "I've never seen that."

"Playing well at the end of the year is more momentum than anything else heading into the December visiting period. In recruiting, perception is reality," Cottrell says. "If you are perceived to have a good program, then you will recruit to that perception. If you're perceived to be at a lower level, even though you really might be at a higher level, you have to overcome that perception. Sometimes that's hard to do."

DECEMBER

On December 1, recruiting turns serious: Head coaches are allowed to start making home visits.

For FSU, it's like a card game at trump time. With Bowden, the Seminoles believe they hold an unbeatable hand. He is a strong motivational speaker, in and out of the locker room, and he is equally adept at meeting parents and families.

Bowden, though, prefers not to talk football during the home visit unless the parents or prospect wants to. He just talks about whatever that day's subject seems to be. Although by signing day he is severely lacking sleep and proper nutrition, Bowden

Continued

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Kendra: It's not over until it's over

Florida State assistant head coach Chuck Amato boarded a flight from Fort Lauderdale to Philadelphia in early December 1994 and perused sports sections of the *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel* and *USA Today*. After driving 1 1/2 hours to Allentown, Pa., Amato checked into a hotel, then showered and shaved in preparation for a visit to Bethlehem Catholic High School.

Before the visit, he called his brother

"He says, 'Did you see the paper?' 'Well, yeah.' " Amato said. "No, I mean the local paper? And then he told me."

What Amato's brother told him was that the player he had come to see, Catholic High quarterback Dan Kendra, had orally committed to Penn State the night before.

"I couldn't believe it," said Amato, who went to the school to congratulate Kendra before flying home.

"Chuck came back from visiting Dan and told us what happened," Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden said. "I was surprised because I thought everything was going great for us. But Chuck came back and (said), 'Coach it's not over. I just have a feeling that it's not over.'"

"And it wasn't."

One month later, Amato was recruiting Kendra again—at Kendra's request. In a highly publicized reversal of field, Kendra, considered by some to be the nation's top prep quarterback, signed with Florida State, not the homestate Nittany Lions.

"Deep down, Florida State is where I really wanted to go all along," Kendra said. "I didn't want to spend four years wondering 'if.'"

The Seminoles deemed Kendra as their top quarterback prospect late in the summer of '94, followed closely by Dexter Jackson of Quincy, Fla. (about 25 miles from the FSU campus in Tallahassee), and Bobby Sabelhaus of Owings Mills, Md. Given that quarterbacks generally draw more recruiting attention than players at other positions, the Seminoles knew how much Kendra meant to their overall recruiting success.

From the beginning, Florida State recruiting coordinator Ronnie Cottrell thought the Seminoles had the inside track on Kendra. Although the youngster's roots were in Pennsylvania, his father, Dan Kendra Jr., played for Bowden at West Virginia in the mid-'70s.

Dan Kendra III is considered the real deal. He threw for 1,988 yards and 21 touchdowns as a senior and his career numbers include 307 of 624 passing for 6,087 yards and 60 touchdowns, with rushing totals of 1,939 yards and 31 touchdowns.

Early in the recruiting process, Kendra said he would announce his college destination shortly after Christmas. Why did he change from Penn State to Florida State? Amato has a theory.

"Danny told me he was getting tired of it all, and when an assistant coach (from North Carolina) came to visit him at school, he didn't want to see him. So he said, 'Tell him I'm going to Penn State.' I think it all snowballed from there."

"There was so much pressure on me to decide," Kendra said, "and after awhile, I just wanted it to be over."



Prize prospect Dan Kendra was headed for Penn State.

—ALAN SCHMADTKE

to think so or say so, but I just thought we were still in there with Danny."

The game is on.

THE OFFICIAL VISIT

"It's like two different worlds. When I first came here, to be honest with you, we could not get a top kid to visit," Bowden says. "Let's just say there were 16 blue-chippers in the state of Florida my first year here. Out of 16, we might get three of them to visit. The rest of them were, 'Nah, I think I want to go to Alabama or Auburn or Georgia or Florida or Miami.' We weren't in the hunt. The big change is we now get visits out of nearly every one of them."

But every year, there are several hot-shot recruits who don't want a tour of Tallahassee. Several prominent players spurn the chance to visit FSU, including safety Jevon Kearse of North Fort Myers, Fla., offensive lineman Scott Bryan of Lake Mary, Fla., linebackers Errol Rochester and Rick Sealey of Miami, running back Brian Darden of Vicksburg, Miss., and cornerback Damian Hill of Dallas. (Kearse, Bryan and Hill eventually sign with Florida; Rochester with South Carolina; Darden with Tennessee; Sealey with Auburn.)

There was a time when I-A schools could offer an unlimited number of official visits. But in this era of NCAA academic reform and cost containment, universities are limited to 55 on-campus official visits. That is, visits by a prospect (and his parents/guardians) that the school can fund under NCAA rules. At FSU, unlike at most northern schools, almost every official visit comes during January, after the season is complete. This way, there aren't the distractions of a game and the visit will have a longer-lasting impression with prospects.

Potential recruits generally spend Friday night, Saturday and Sunday morning in Tallahassee. About half of them bring their parents and a few bring other relatives, such as aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters. Under NCAA guidelines, the school can pay only lodging and food costs for the prospect and two parents/guardians. If a prospect flies with his parents, the school can pay only the recruit's airfare; if the prospect drives with his parents, the school can reimburse them for mileage.

The player checks into a Tallahassee hotel, is introduced to his host (an FSU player), eats dinner at FSU's training table and prepares to socialize.

"The best hosts are the ones with a connection to the recruit, the ones who are from the same hometown or high school," Cottrell says. "They don't have to play the same position."

Hosts aren't bashful about taking recruits to parties on Friday night, but the prospect knows he has a long, important day Saturday.

Saturday begins with breakfast at the training table, followed by a group talk by Bowden and a viewing of an FSU highlight video. Depending on the number of prospects visiting, players are separated into two to three groups of four to five players; the groups meet with different people throughout the day. One meets with Associate A.D. for Academic Programs

wouldn't trade these visits for anything.

"The home visits, I like 'em," he says. "Aside from the football, the coaching, to me that's the best part of this. The gauge of when to get out of coaching is when you quit enjoying that. Recruiting is what drives most coaches out of coaching. They're tired of going and talking to this kid and babying him, and just going out and getting players. But I just enjoy meeting them and talking to them. If it ever gets to where I don't want to do that, I'll have to get out of coaching."

The arrival of home visits is one of several signs recruiting has turned from evaluation to business. Almost without exception, each assistant coach begins to politic Cottrell for an extra recruit at his position—or else for him to favor the prospect in his recruiting area over somebody else's. It's not cutthroat, just hard lobbying. But there's little joking around.

"You'll walk out into the hall and see one guy leaving Ronnie's office and another guy waiting in his own office to go in," says receivers coach Jeff Bowden, one of Bobby's four sons. "He doesn't want to be seen going in, either."

"You want your guy and somebody else

wants his guy," FSU offensive coordinator Mark Richt says. "Ronnie has to sell them all to the man (Bowden)."

The counting game begins. As home visits wind down and official visits get scheduled, antsy prospects announce their decisions. Dreams are born in one place, ulcers in another. It's that way at Florida State, just as it is everywhere else.

The brother of former FSU receiver Matt Frier, free safety Todd Frier of Suwannee County High in Live Oak, Fla., commits to FSU during the first week of December, becoming FSU's first oral commitment. But that decision was expected. What follows is a series of unexpected blows. The hardest hit comes from Kendra. In mid-December, Cottrell fields a phone call from FSU assistant head coach Chuck Amato, who is recruiting Kendra for FSU. Kendra has picked Penn State over FSU.

Amato is disbelieving. Bowden surprised, Cottrell devastated. What happened?

The next day, Amato flies home and meets with Cottrell and Bowden. His message is surprising.

"I had a gut feeling, but I just didn't think it was over," Amato says. "I had no reason

Roger Grooters, along with other prominent officials from the school. Another meets with position coaches to talk football. A third takes a walking tour of the campus, a tour conducted by FSU's Garnet and Gold girls, a group of coeds who act as official host for the weekend.

Later Saturday, there's another meal on campus, then players and families convene at Bowden's home in northeast Tallahassee for dessert. Assistant coaches and their wives are present as prospects play pool, watch TV and play video games. Bowden walks from room to room to chat with players and parents. Afterward, host players take recruits around town for more socializing.

Nearby Florida A&M University plays a significant role, both during a recruiting visit and, later, during a player's stay at FSU. FAMU gives Tallahassee something FSU's student body of 28,500 lacks: a large, young, intellectual and predominantly African American community.

During the course of their time at FSU, many athletes date women who attend FAMU. Even if FSU athletes don't date any of the 10,250 FAMU students, their population enlivens on- and off-campus parties and local nightclubs. In short, FAMU's presence gives many FSU athletes a comfortable sense of belonging.

To Bowden, FAMU is another selling point for FSU: "FAMU isn't in other cities; it's in Tallahassee."

By Sunday, the visits are all but complete. If the Seminoles want a player to give an oral commitment, they'll schedule a one-on-one meeting between the player and Bowden.

JANUARY

Within hours of FSU's Sugar Bowl victory over Florida, Bowden is back on the home-visit trail. Across the country, recruiting decisions start making headlines.

Bobby Sabelhaus makes news across Florida. A big (6-foot-5, 225 pounds), intelligent (3.0 GPA, 1,250 SAT), side-armed throwing quarterback from Owings Mills, Md., Sabelhaus orally commits to the Gators, and state newspapers splash the news: FSU is 0 for 2 at its high-profile position.

Left unsaid is that Richt, who flew to Maryland on October 28 to see Sabelhaus play, never felt comfortable enough with Sabelhaus' speed to offer him a scholarship, even though Kendra had committed to Penn State.

"We've gotten spoiled by a Heisman winner," Richt says, referring to 1993 Heisman winner Charlie Ward. "In the offense we're running, we like to have a guy back there with mobility. That's become a major factor now."

Continued

Fancy meeting you here, Dad

When Auburn Coach Terry Bowden walked in her front door, Meinda Shepard wasn't sure how to react—or what Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden, who already was in her house, would say.

Terry Bowden walked into Shepard's house and found his father, Bobby, winding down his home-visit speech to Shepard's son, Martavious Houston, the top high school football player in Florida in 1994.

Bobby Bowden laughed and thanked the wide-eyed Shepard for sharing her home. He shook Houston's hand, then Terry's.

"After he's here five minutes," Bobby Bowden said to Shepard, nodding at Terry, "tell him his mother called looking for him. My boys all jump when their mother wants something. If you can get rid of him pretty quick, I'll double back and come see you again."

Shepard couldn't help but giggle. Countered Terry about his father: "Did he tell you about his alcohol problem?"

Of course, Bobby Bowden's only problem with alcohol is that he doesn't like it, never has. As the older Bowden drove away, the younger one began his spiel.

Eventually, Terry's sales job is the one Houston liked most. In combination with Terry Bowden's up-front manner, Auburn's campus and the Tigers' new-found tradition. Houston disdained a late run by new Miami Coach Butch Davis and signed a scholarship with Auburn.

Houston (6-foot-1, 190 pounds) made 120 tackles, including 90 solo stops, his senior year as a strong safety

at Boyd Anderson High in Lauderdale Lakes, a suburb of Fort Lauderdale. He was considered one of the top five defensive backs in the country and, as such, was recruited by almost every college football power in the nation. He whittled his list of schools to Miami, Auburn, Florida State, Georgia and Notre Dame. But FSU, Georgia and Notre Dame weren't around for Houston's decision.

Houston wound up not visiting Notre Dame when he couldn't get a flight to South Bend, Ind., after a Friday night high school game. After that, Shepard says, Notre Dame told her it received the wrong transcript from Boyd Anderson. Somehow, the problem never got resolved. Notre Dame was out.

Florida State offensive coordinator Mark Richt was the Seminoles' primary recruiter of Houston. Richt told Houston early in the recruiting process that the sooner he made up his mind, the better for everyone concerned. Eventually, when Richt and FSU recruiting coordinator Ronnie Carrrell discovered that Houston still had Auburn and Miami (in addition to FSU) on his list, the Seminoles began concentrating on other defensive back prospects, particularly Tallahassee FAMU High's Theon Rackley, who eventually signed with the Seminoles.

Houston visited Florida State on the weekend of the school's awards banquet, and he returned from Tallahassee with a case of the flu. Houston recovered; FSU's chances of getting him did not.

"I never felt like we were ever in the lead with Martavious," Richt said. "I felt like we had a chance but just didn't do a good enough job to get in the lead somehow."

"Not everyone wants to go to Florida State."

In December, then-Miami coach Dennis Erickson told Houston and Shepard that he was not leaving the Hurricanes. Then, in January, he did, to become coach of the NFL's Seattle Seahawks.

Houston was disappointed, but the Hurricanes re-entered the picture when Davis was hired in mid-January. Still, Auburn prevailed.

"He was straight up," Shepard said of Terry Bowden. "He lets you know it's not all about football. He told Martavious, 'This is the way it's going to have to be, this way or no way. I'll kick your butt out of my program, because we're going to be disciplined.'"

—ALAN SCHMADTKE



Bobby Bowden beat son Terry to the house of highly touted Martavious Houston and his mother, but it was the Auburn coach who was home free once the player made his decision.

Days later, in the parking lot of a Tallahassee restaurant, Richt gives Cottrell more bad news about another quarterback prospect. Jason Pomar, from Vero Beach, Fla., has committed to former FSU assistant Scott and South Carolina. It looks like Cottrell won't need that recruiter-of-the-year speech after all.

Then Kendra calls. Amato's right. Kendra is having second thoughts about Penn State. Florida State is back in the hunt. Kendra tells Amato, "Please come visit me."

Kendra's decision changes FSU's momentum. Everything moves forward again. Cottrell is re-energized. He makes more phone calls. He also wishes Bowden would make more than he does.

But Bowden rarely calls prospects. Although he has dual reputations, as a no-holds-barred gambler on the field and as a charmer of "mommas and daddies" off it, he doesn't like the sugar-coated conversations that accompany the recruiting process.

It's not enough to him that the aftermath of a phone call likely would make a highly touted high school player go to school the next day and announce: "Bobby Bowden called last night."

"I called 'em all the time when I was an assistant because you had to, you know?" he says. "I expect my assistants to call 'em. That's part of the job. But I don't have to do it now. Because here's what happens. I call and I get a busy signal. And I call again and it's still busy. And I'll try five or six more times. When I get through, I know the seven or eight other calls before me were other coaches saying the same thing I'm going to say. I just don't like that."

"I'd rather look 'em in the eye. It's better for both of us that way. Ronnie gets mad at me because I don't like to use the phone, but I don't do it that much."

"Yeah," Cottrell confesses, "I wish he'd use the phone more. But he doesn't. And we still do all right, don't we?"

FSU's internal investigation of the Foot Locker incident has found 14 NCAA violations, and the school reports them to the NCAA. But Florida State also has another obstacle over the final month of recruiting. Defensive coordinator Mickey Andrews is off the road for good because of hip-replacement surgery.

NCAA rules allow only seven of nine full-time coaches on the road at one time. Generally, Bowden likes to keep Cottrell at home to coordinate and assistant Odell Haggins, who lives in the football dorm, at home to keep an eye on players. Andrews' surgery keeps him on crutches for more than a month.

"I knew I couldn't coach on crutches, so that meant I had to recruit with them," Andrews said. "I just spent a lot of time on the phone. I worked them (phones) pretty good."

The day Kendra confirms his decision to switch commitments from Penn State to Florida State, Miami Coach Dennis Erickson helps the Seminoles' efforts as well. Although he has told Hurricane recruits what he had to tell them—that he

SIGN ME UP

Florida State's 1995 recruiting class:

Pos.	Player	Town/School
RB	Khalid Abdullah	Fort Lauderdale/Nova
OL	Jeremy Brett	Sandersville, Ga./Washington Co.
WR	Marcus Bullock	Pensacola, Fla./Catholic
WR	Billy Brown	Fort Lauderdale/St. Thomas Aquinas
DB	Richard Brown	Fort Lauderdale/Nova
LB	Vernon Crawford	City College of San Francisco
LB	Ronney Daniels	Lake Wales, Fla./Lake Wales
WR	Ron Dugans	Tallahassee, Fla./FAMU
RB	Dee Feaster	Rock Hill, S.C./Northwestern
DB	Mario Edwards	Pascagoula, Miss./Pascagoula
WR	Todd Frier	Live Oak, Fla./Suwannee Co.
WR	Damian Harrell	City College of San Francisco
QB	Dexter Jackson	Quincy, Fla./Shanks
DL	Jerry Johnson	Fort Pierce, Fla./Central
OL	Walter Jones	Holmes (Miss.) Community College
QB	Dan Kendra	Bethlehem, Pa./Catholic
DB	Sean Key	Miami/American
DB	Theon Rackley	Tallahassee, Fla./FAMU
RB	Jeremi Rudolph	Apopka, Fla./Apopka
DL	Larry Smith	Wayne, Pa./Valley Forge Prep
DB	Germaine Stringer	Decatur, Ga./SW DeKalb
OL	Eric Thomas	Miami/Columbus
DL	Chris Walker	Cocoa, Fla./Cocoa
WR	Peter Warrick	Bradenton, Fla./Southeast
OL	Jason Whitaker	Panama City, Fla./Mosley

wasn't leaving Miami—Erickson accepts the coaching job of the NFL's Seattle Seahawks. Miami seemingly falls off the face of the recruiting world. In the next few weeks, acting head coach Art Kehoe has to dig out his four national championship rings and wear them, a startling and visible reminder to prospects of the most successful college program in Florida. Still, the Seminoles' efforts pick up more steam.

On January 12, receiver Marcus Bullock of Pensacola, Fla., commits to Florida State, and word begins to filter south that Kendra is trying to convince a fellow Pennsylvania star, receiver Corey Jones of Lancaster, to pick FSU. (Jones instead commits to, coincidentally, Penn State, and later signs with the Nittany Lions.)

Within the next week, FSU has half its recruiting class filled by non-binding, oral commitments, a source of constant media attention and a haven of the state's talk-radio geeks. Offensive lineman Eric Thomas of Miami, linebacker Ronney Daniels of Lake Wales, Fla., fullback Khalid Abdullah of Fort Lauderdale, defensive back Sean Key of Miami, offensive lineman Jeremy Brett of Sandersville, Ga., and receiver Damian Harrell, a former Miami prep star out of City College of San Francisco, have picked FSU. One prospect, Lake Worth, Fla., receiver Errick Lowe, chooses Auburn after the Seminoles back off.

A week later, Miami replaces Erickson with Dallas Cowboys defensive coordinator Butch Davis, a former disciple of Jimmy Johnson, igniting the next level of in-state competition. Fort Pierce, Fla., defensive lineman Jerry Johnson, disappointed that Hurricanes defensive coordinator Greg McMackin is overlooked for the Miami coaching job, orally commits to Florida State. A late visit from Davis does no good for Miami.

Three more in-state prospects—Apopka running back Jeremi Rudolph, Tallahassee receiver Ron Dugans and Fort Lauderdale receiver

Billy Brown—also commit to Florida State.

At FSU, as at many schools, January goes by in waves. Recruits almost always take official visits on weekends, which leads to one crescendo after another. Florida State's most anticipated weekend revolves around the postseason awards banquet, an evening usually scheduled on a key basketball weekend (i.e., FSU vs. North Carolina or Duke). This year, the banquet is January 20, and the Seminoles load up on blue-chip visitors.

Defensive back Martavious Houston of Lauderdale Lakes, Fla., the state's top prospect, shows up. So does linebacker Takeo Spikes, Brett's teammate at Washington County High in Sandersville, and Reggie McGrew of Mayo, Fla., considered the state's top defensive lineman and one of the top three in the nation.

McGrew stuns FSU coaches by orally committing to the Seminoles during his visit. McGrew's father, Taylor, graduated from Florida State, so it seemingly is a natural decision.

"Looking back on it," Cottrell says, "it was too easy. We were happy for ourselves and patting ourselves on the back, and we congratulated Reggie, but it was too easy."

After banquet weekend, the Seminoles earnestly crunch their numbers, trying to blend the players still on their recruiting board with the number of openings they think they have left.

Bowden settles all conflicts about whom to offer scholarships and whom to abandon. After the fact, FSU coaches joke about the times Cottrell goes to Bowden with four potential signees, wanting Bowden to pick one. And Bowden picks somebody other than the four, a decision that drives Cottrell crazy.

"But, again, that comes down to his experience and his intuition," Cottrell says.

"In that situation, usually I pick the one with the best grades. Not always, but most of the time," Bowden says. (Seven FSU recruits had not met Prop 48 requirements when they signed, though four of those had qualified by press time in mid-May.)

Almost always, though, prospects make Bowden's choice easy. As FSU coaches press for a decision, some prospects go elsewhere—like Spikes.

The Seminoles backed off another linebacker prospect, Anthony Simmons of Spartanburg, S.C., after Spikes gives an indication he will sign with Florida State. And when Spikes makes it through his high school postseason football banquet without committing to Auburn, the Seminoles feel they're set. You see, in 1993, Washington County's banquet speaker was Bobby Bowden, and the team's top defensive player, linebacker Demetro Stephens, committed that night to Florida State. In 1994, Washington County's banquet speaker was Auburn Coach Terry Bowden, Bobby's son. The day after the banquet, word from Auburn is that Tigers coaches are unsettled about Spikes' decision. But that emotion

doesn't last long. Less than a week later, Spikes makes a public commitment to Auburn.

One day later, FSU assistant Billy Sexton flies to South Carolina to revisit Simmons. But Simmons has chosen Clemson.

"That's how this goes sometimes," Sexton says. "We get some in the end, they get some in the end."

SIGNING DAY

In the days before National Signing Day, when prospects and parents put name to paper and officially link themselves to a school via a letter-of-intent, Bowden is worried. It's an annual fear, and it's no different this year.

Cottrell's recruiting board contains nearly 60 names. Under NCAA rules, the Seminoles can sign as many athletes as they want. But when it's time to award scholarships, they only can award 25 a year—tops. And they must keep their total number of scholarship athletes at 85.

So 60 signees is way too many. What makes it scarier is that schools mail national letters-of-intent to prospects several weeks in advance of signing day. In FSU's case, it mails twice as many letters as it expects back.

"I can't even watch Ronnie move the names around," Bowden says. "It can confuse me and I can confuse him. So Ronnie just keeps me up to date."

"But it's amazing how it always works out. Every year it works out. Sometimes I don't even know how."

Truth be told, Bowden dislikes the buildup to signing day. To him, this isn't college football's second season, as many fans in the South treat it. It's the part of the job he feels should be conducted without having to pick up a newspaper to see a score.

Instead, as signing day nears, Bowden reads daily accounts of oral commitments to Florida, FSU and Miami. Those stories are accompanied by totals, as in "Joe Receiver's decision brings the Seminoles' list of commitments to 18, 10 more than Miami and one fewer than Florida."

"I wish they'd move signing day up one week earlier every year," Bowden says. "That way, nobody would talk about recruiting after the bowl game. You'd play the game and sign the players, and there wouldn't be so much pressure on kids—or on us."

Signing Day 1995 starts as always. The lone fax machine in FSU's athletic department, located in the sports information office, receives 10 signed national letters-of-intent by 10 a.m. But nothing is heard from Antwan Edwards, a cornerback from Starkville, Miss., or quarterback Dexter Jackson of nearby Quincy, Fla. Both had orally committed to FSU.

Cottrell calls about Edwards. A secretary at Starkville High tells Cottrell that Edwards did sign—but with Clemson.

"What?!" Cottrell says. "You're kidding me, right?"

She's not. Edwards is a Tiger.

Cottrell hangs up. The phone rings, and it's Andy Gay, an assistant coach at Shanks High. He says he has bad news, and Cottrell braces himself.

"Dexter signed, right? Signed with Florida State?" Cottrell asks.

The prank is complete. Williams tells Cottrell that Jackson did indeed sign with FSU.

The worst comes later. McGrew doesn't sign, and Cottrell can't find him or find out why. Information then arrives that Florida has learned that McGrew is wavering and may not sign with the Seminoles. Two days later, McGrew signs with the Gators. McGrew said he felt he could play earlier at Florida.

Bowden, in the middle of meeting candidates for the FSU athletic director position, is disappointed but not upset. He later sees a television interview with McGrew, and it makes him feel better.

"He was smiling. He was relaxed," Bowden says. "When I saw that, I knew he'd made the decision he wanted to make. That's all you ever want a player to do, make the decision that he wants. I wish he'd have come here, and we wanted him, but you can't fight that."

After a pause, Bowden says, "If we'd have gotten him and Blackshear, it would have been a total wipeout." (Cheston Blackshear, a highly touted guard from Jacksonville, also signs with Florida.)

Bowden then greets two dozen reporters. He sings his first comment: "Oh, little town of Bethlehem," referring to Kendra's hometown. But Bowden is tired and his pun flies over the head of the reporters.

THE AFTERMATH

In the eyes of most recruiting analysts, the Seminoles' class of signees ranks among the top three in the nation, including

a No. 1 rating from *SuperPrep* magazine. But as the reports of McGrew, Blackshear and Edwards signing elsewhere spreads, FSU's status dips. Florida moves ahead of Florida State in several surveys. Bowden and Cottrell are philosophical.

"We did well. If you recruit well in our state, you'll do well," Bowden says. "And we recruited well in our state."

Too well, some of the locals believe. The decisions of receiver Ron Dugans and safety Theon Rackley to attend FSU causes a stir around town.

Dugans and Rackley were teammates at Tallahassee's FAMU High. It's the first time FSU has signed a FAMU High player. And it upset Florida A&M University President Frederick Humphries, who told a local columnist, "There is such a thing as loyalty, but I don't see much of that."

Humphries demands an explanation from

Florida A&M University Coach Billy Joe. The Rattlers, who generally sign two to four players a year from FAMU High, recruited both athletes, but not with much intensity. It's unclear whether Joe and his assistants assumed the two would matriculate to FAMU as a matter of tradition or if they believed they were out of the running.

After their commitments to FSU become public, Rackley and Dugans are summoned to a meeting with FAMU High officials, who asked both to reconsider their decisions. That meeting, in turn, angered parents who didn't understand why the players' decision to attend a I-A school with a track record of bowl greatness as opposed to a I-AA school with a five-year mark of 31-25 was being second-guessed.

The fallout costs FAMU High assistant coach Tony Collins, the man in charge of publicizing Baby Rattlers players, his job. Humphries, renowned for recruiting National Merit Scholars to Florida A&M, denied he fired Collins or pressured FAMU High Coach Harry Jacobs into pushing Collins out the door. Regardless, five weeks after signing day, Collins accepts an assistant coaching job at Tallahassee's Lincoln High.

Meanwhile, Andrews still can't believe he lost Edwards to Clemson. He called Edwards at home at 11:30 p.m. the night before signing day and everything appeared set. He still feels guilty, though Bowden is not angry—as if Edwards' decision were preordained.

"I know if I could have seen him face-to-face we'd have got him," Bowden said. "Well, I say that, but I don't know. I probably would



The signing of FAMU High standouts Ron Dugans (left) and Theon Rackley was a first for Florida State, but it cost prep assistant coach Tony Collins (center) his job.

have seen something coming, though, and we might have made other plans.

"Sometimes, our fans think too much of the ones we lost and not enough of the ones we got. But there's so many of them. And we get our share." ♦

Alan Schmadtke covers Florida State and college sports for the Orlando Sentinel.

now it's

MY TURN

Exodus of top underclassmen gives 'anonymous' young players a golden opportunity to make names for themselves in '95

By MICHAEL BRADLEY

You can't blame Southwest Conference kickers for being unsympathetic to Leeland McElroy's plight last season. Fearful of being scorched by the Texas A&M tailback's considerable return skills, the big hitters chose to lay up. The kickers didn't care how frustrated McElroy was with spending his third year as an Aggies apprentice or how much he wanted the ball. They weren't going to give it to him.

Since senior Rodney Thomas got the bulk of the handoffs, and Texas A&M wasn't throwing it much, McElroy couldn't count on much quality time with the football. So, he yearned to return kicks, an opportunity the stingy Aggies defense didn't provide very often. When McElroy finally dropped deep in anticipation, he usually was disappointed again, this time by the kickers.

Pooch kicks. Squibs. Poppups. They tried everything to keep the ball away from McElroy. By season's end, things were so ridiculous that McElroy was practically pacing along the goal line before kickoffs, try-

ing not to give an indication of where he would line up. It didn't matter. After the third game of the season, the long kicks stopped. McElroy had only two more return opportunities, and he took one of those 83 yards, to Texas' 1-yard line. Texas A&M was getting great field position thanks to its opponents' discretion, but McElroy wasn't getting the ball.

"Since I was splitting time, it wasn't like if I didn't get the kickoff, I would just go into the huddle and wait for the ball," said McElroy, who tied an NCAA record by returning two kicks for touchdowns in 1993 against Rice. "Kickoffs were another chance to get the ball, and when I didn't get it, I was frustrated."

After waiting three years (one of them, 1992, a redshirt season) for the chance to be Texas A&M's main tailback, McElroy now has his opportunity. He split time with Thomas and Greg Hill in 1993 and was Thomas' understudy last season. Now, McElroy—who led the nation in kickoff returns (39.3-yard average) as a freshman—is ready to take his place in line among recent Aggies backfield standouts Hill, Thomas,

Roger Vick, Darren Lewis, Anthony Toney and Keith Woodside.

With the starting job will come a spot in the national limelight. Not only has Thomas' college career ended, but Penn State's Ki-Jana Carter and Colorado's Rashaan Salaam have left school as well (a year early), creating somewhat of a void atop the NCAA backfield elite. By the end of this season, McElroy should have made substantial noise on the national scene, as well as within the lame-duck Southwest Conference.

He won't be alone. The recent exodus of top underclassmen to the NFL has established significant opportunities for younger players to attract attention a little earlier than they might have had if the big names had stayed around. McElroy is as good an early pick for the Heisman Trophy as any returning player, and he is joined by a flock of heretofore underexposed players at every position who will be appearing on All-America ballots and receiving considerable publicity throughout the 1995 season.

McElroy is a big-play time bomb, capable of igniting at any time. Despite his limited exposure during two seasons at Texas A&M, he owns an impressive resume of long-distance touchdowns accomplished by nearly every means possible. Texas A&M Coach R.C. Slocum must think back to his days as an assistant at Kansas State to find someone comparable to McElroy.

"I coached against (Nebraska's) Johnny Rodgers at Kansas State, and every single time he touched the ball, he was a threat to score a touchdown," Slocum said. "I've never seen anybody who inspired fear in opposing defenses like Rodgers. Leeland has some of those same qualities."

McElroy finished fourth in the Southwest Conference with 707 rushing yards last year and scored nine touchdowns. He also was the conference's most dangerous kickoff returner, averaging 50.2 yards on six returns and scoring once. He has four career touchdowns on kickoff returns; the NCAA record is six, set by Southern California's Anthony Davis from 1972-74. McElroy has had five scoring runs of 30-plus yards during his career, including an 81-yard dash against Houston in 1993, and also has turned three short passes into scores, with a 26-yarder against LSU in '93 the shortest of the bunch. All of that makes Slocum's comparisons between Rodgers, the 1972 Heisman winner, and McElroy more than just coaching hyperbole.

McElroy had wanted to do more by this point in his college career. Though he grew accustomed to waiting for things as the youngest of 15 children, McElroy didn't quite expect to be standing in line when he committed to Texas A&M out of Beaumont (Texas) Central High.

"It's been a long and tough wait," he said. "I accepted my role of going out there behind Greg and Rodney because I just wanted to help my team. But I couldn't argue with what I got. Whenever the ball was handed to me, I was happy."

McElroy is a curious blend of speed and strength, despite his unimposing 5-foot-11,

202-pound frame. Slocum says McElroy is one of the strongest Aggies (he squats more than 500 pounds) and can run through people or make them miss. "Some guys are slashers, others are elusive and some have sheer speed," Slocum said. "Leeland is a combination of all three."

He also is going to be the featured back on a team with legitimate national title aspirations. Should the Aggies survive a September 23 visit to Colorado, they could rumble to a perfect season and a spot in the Fiesta Bowl, this season's ersatz national title game. If they do, it will be with a large assist from McElroy, who hopes to see the ball enough this year as Texas A&M's featured tailback that it won't matter where opposing kickers boot the ball.

"Now it's my turn," he said. "I have the drive and want-to, and I have things to prove that I haven't been able to do before. I want to see what I can do as the man."

Jake Plummer, Arizona State

If Jake Plummer is trying to be like Ken Stabler, his boyhood idol and the reason the Arizona State junior quarterback is nicknamed "The Snake," he has work to do. Sure, Plummer, a 6-2, 183-pound junior, sports long hair and doesn't mind gambling at times on the field like the former Raiders All-Pro, but there's that attitude problem.

Plummer might be too nice to be a Snake.

After reading Stabler's autobiography, *Snake*, as an eighth-grader, Plummer set out to emulate Stabler's wisecracking, free-spirited style. Though he remains a work in progress, Plummer is decidedly un-reptilian.

"Jake is smart and is a great kid," Arizona State Coach Bruce Snyder said. "He's stable as hell. He's the first in line at winter conditioning. He gets along with players of every ethnic variety on the team and just loves playing football."

Plummer expected to spend a comfortable 1993 freshman season in Tempe with a clipboard in hand adjusting to life away from his Boise, Idaho, home. But when senior Grady Benton faltered in midseason, Snyder tabbed Plummer.

"He flew by the seat of his pants and was pretty good at it," Snyder said. "He showed he could make things happen when the structure of the play broke down."

Plummer's first college pass was a 78-yard touchdown bomb, a reflection of his excellent deep-passing ability. Plummer, who assumed starting duties in the sixth game, completed 51.3 percent of his passes for 1,650 yards and nine touchdowns en route to leading the Sun Devils to a 4-2 finish.

Last year was even better. Plummer threw for 2,179 yards and 15 touchdowns and caught fire during Arizona State's final five games, throwing for 1,156 yards, 10 scores and only two interceptions. Included was a 327-yard, three-touchdown outburst against Brigham Young. Though his accomplishments were impressive, the Sun Devils—plagued by injuries and youth—stumbled to a 3-8 record.

"I tried to convince myself every week we

still had a shot at a bowl," Plummer said. "That hope kept me alive."

Arizona State isn't Rose Bowl timber yet, but the team should be somewhat improved this year. Plummer's numbers should grow, too, thanks in part to an influx of talented receivers (including *Parade* magazine high school All-America Kenny Mitchell) and Snyder's plans to use Plummer's mobility

feet and legs were caused by his big belly. More likely, though, he just got tired of his life sounding like an endless stream of punch lines to overweight jokes.

When a doctor gave him a pair of orthotics to help correct his fallen arches, Anderson broke them. The replacements gave way, too. When he needed an MRI exam on his leg, Anderson had to go to



When Texas A&M's Leeland McElroy gets his hands on the football—he was repeatedly frustrated by opposing kickers last year—the tailback is a big-play time bomb. McElroy is ready to explode this season.

more this season (he primarily was a runner at Capital High in Boise). Plummer welcomes the added responsibility.

"Last year, I was out to help make memories for the seniors who were leaving," Plummer said. "But this year, we're not going to wait around to see what's down the road. Even though things look nice in the future, we want to win now."

Now that sounds like a Snake talking.

Willie Anderson, Auburn

Early in his freshman year at Auburn in 1993, Willie Anderson realized he might be a little too big, even for an offensive lineman. It could have been that his sore back,

Auburn's Veterinary School because the only machine that could accommodate his hefty frame was used primarily on horses and cattle. The media loved that one. "It didn't bother me," Anderson said. "It got some publicity for the vet school and the athletic department."

Convinced that his string of early-season ailments was primarily weight-related, Anderson shed 20 pounds and moved into a starting guard position by the second game at a "trim" 6-6, 306. By the end of last season, his weight had remained steady, but his prospects were limitless. Anderson was named first-team All-SEC as a sophomore

Continued

last year at tackle (his natural position) and should be one of the nation's best linemen this season.

"It starts with his size," Auburn Coach Terry Bowden said. "But he is agile and has extremely long arms that give him good leverage on pass plays. He pulls well on the counter trey and can be intimidating in the open field. Willie can be dangerous to linebackers."

Anderson was part of a Tigers line that went seven games without allowing a sack last year, including a shutout of Florida sackmeister Kevin Carter. Anderson averaged better than 75 percent in his weekly grades from Auburn coaches in '94 and has met the expectations that accompanied him out of Vigor High in Prichard, Ala., as Bowden's first blue-chip recruit from the state.

Anderson will swing between both tackle spots in Bowden's system this year but appears to have the necessary skills to handle the demanding left tackle spot on the pro level. At that position, Anderson will be asked to protect the quarterback's blind side.

"My long arms are an advantage," Anderson said. "If a pass rusher gets by me, I can just push him away. I also have a good punch move if a defender comes off the line and shows me his chest."



Auburn's Willie Anderson (left) is a real horse—as the university's veterinary department will attest.

"I always thought I was quick for my size. I like to pull and block linebackers and defensive backs."

Those open-field targets wish Anderson still was breaking arch supports instead of their heads.

Kenard Lang, Miami

There might have been some skepticism earlier this year when Butch Davis succeeded Dennis Erickson as coach at Miami, but Kenard Lang wasn't one of the critics. After hearing about the string of NFL players Davis produced during an earlier incarnation as Miami's defensive line coach (1984-88), the sophomore defensive end was thrilled.

"When I heard that Coach Davis had worked with guys like Jerome Brown,

Russell Maryland and Jimmie Jones, I knew he would help the defensive line out a lot," Lang said. "People call Miami 'Quarterback U.' but it's mostly a defensive school."

And Lang has a chance to become the latest addition to the proud Hurricanes defensive line lineage. Lang, the 1994 Big East Rookie of the Year, moved into the starting lineup in the fourth game of the season and registered eight sacks and 15 quarterback pressures, recovered a fumble, caused a fumble and even intercepted a pass. With relentless tackle Warren Sapp gone a year early, the focus of the Hurricanes' line switches outside, where ends Lang and junior Kenny Holmes reside.

Lang came to Miami as a highly touted 6-4, 251-pound linebacker from perennial power Evans High in Orlando. But he quickly was moved to end during his 1993 redshirt season. He demonstrated an immediate ability to pressure the quarterback as a scout-team member and continued to impress during 1994 spring drills. When sixth-year senior Rusty Medearis was forced to quit after three games last year because of a severely injured knee, it was Lang's time.

"Kenard has a lot of natural instincts and the right mental approach," Miami defensive line coach Rick Petri said. "He has tenacity and is a relentless player. He's strong at the point of attack and is going to get stronger as he learns his keys and plays with more leverage."

Despite his smashing debut, Lang admits he was confused at times last season. Petri calls it "paralysis by analysis," referring to young players' inability to act quickly while they size up a situation. By season's end, Lang knew which moves would counter certain tactics by enemy offensive tackles and had developed a solid presence against the run. Playing next to Sapp helped, too. "Every play was like fourth and one for him," Lang said.

Though Sapp, who won the Lombardi Trophy last season, is gone, Lang doesn't expect the unit's productivity—Miami ranked first nationally in pass efficiency (81.3), scoring defense (10.8) and total defense (220.9 yards)—to diminish. And he doesn't mind the extra pressure he'll face to perform.

"Last year, I wanted to get four sacks, and I got eight," Lang said. "This year, I want to get 16. I set high goals for



Arizona State quarterback Jake Plummer, nicknamed "The Snake," had a solid sophomore year after often slithering his way out of trouble in 1993.

myself, and I don't worry about the extra attention I'll get. It just makes me work harder to be a better player."

Marcus Harris, Wyoming

Even though former Wyoming standout receiver Ryan Yarbrough provided guidance and support during Marcus Harris' freshman year as a pass-catching understudy, the Cowboys' record-holder still couldn't supplant Harris' No. 1 role model—his third-grade teacher.

So profound was her influence that Harris is majoring in elementary education in the hopes of one day teaching third-graders.

"Her name was Mrs. Perry," Harris said. "I couldn't tell you her first name, but I have

Continued



Kenard Lang, who has a knack of bringing quarterbacks to their knees, wants to double his sack total for the Miami Hurricanes.

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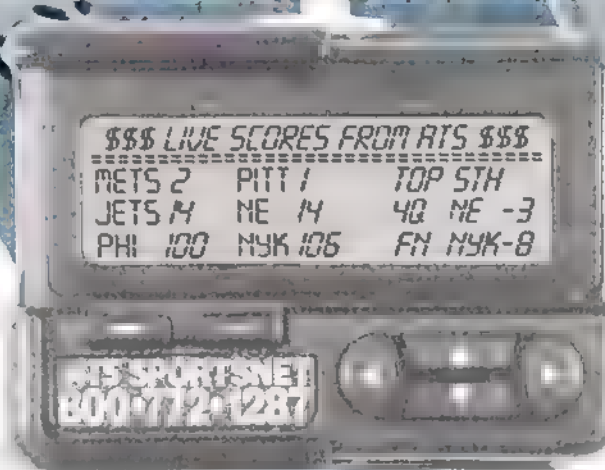
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wanted to teach a long time because of her."

America's youth may have to wait for Harris' classroom debut. The outrageous numbers he posted as a sophomore in 1994 could be the opening salvo in a college career that leads to a job in the NFL. After catching just one pass for 14 yards in 1993, Harris took advantage of Yarbrough's graduation (he now is a New York Jet) to become the Cowboys' featured receiver, piling up 71 receptions for 1,431 yards and 11 touchdowns. His 119.3 yards-per-game average topped the nation.

When Wyoming Coach Joe Tiller recruited Harris from Brooklyn Center High in suburban Minneapolis, Tiller promised to make the 6-2, 207-pounder his main wide-out. Neither party figured that would happen so fast. Harris thrived in Wyoming's system, which moves its receivers around in formations to create many opportunities for success. Though he possesses ordinary 4.55 speed, Harris is exceptional after the catch and is rarely tackled from behind in the open field. He's strong enough to go over the middle and has impressed Tiller with his confidence and consistency.

"This guy is so steady he's scary," Tiller said. "He's too real. I would think because of his work ethic and mental approach that he should be a consistent performer again this year."

Harris credits his parents with his outlook. "I was taught not to do one thing today and then let it slide tomorrow," he said.



Wyoming's Marcus Harris learned a lot about football from Ryan Yarbrough and a great deal about goals from his third-grade teacher.

INTO THE LIMELIGHT

Here are a few more players who can be expected to become nationally known this season:

Player	Pos.	Class	Ht./Wt.	School
Reidel Anthony	WR	Soph.	6-0/176	Florida
Will Blackwell	WR	Soph.	6-0/180	San Diego State
Daryl Bush	LB	Soph.	6-2/230	Florida State
Rae Carruth	WR	Jr.	6-0/180	Colorado
Andre Cooper	WR	Jr.	6-2/194	Florida State
Troy Davis	RB	Soph.	5-8/182	Iowa State
Kevin Faulk	RB	Fr.	5-10/195	LSU
Jammi German	WR	Jr.	6-0/180	Miami
Jay Graham	RB	Jr.	6-0/206	Tennessee
Mark Hartsell	QB	Jr.	6-5/218	Boston College
Carl McCullough	RB	Soph.	6-3/218	Wisconsin
Dennis Riddle	RB	Soph.	6-0/195	Alabama
Shawn Springs	CB	Soph.	5-11/181	Ohio State
Glen Steele	DT	Soph.	6-5/270	Michigan
Travis Stroud	NT	Soph.	6-3/270	Georgia
Shannon Suttle	DT	Soph.	6-4/265	Auburn
Herchell Troutman	RB	Soph.	5-7/185	Colorado
Eric Vance	FS	Jr.	6-4/217	Vanderbilt
Ben Washington	FS	Soph.	6-1/190	South Carolina
Brandon Whiting	DT	Soph.	6-3/275	California

He'll need that positive approach this season, when enemy defenders key on him. Harris won't mind the extra attention. Should things get too crowded for him on the field, he can always retreat to the Laramie Mountain Range or Snowy Mountain Range, which surround Wyoming's picturesque campus. "They let me forget about school and football," Harris said.

But not about Mrs. Perry.

Kevin Hardy, Illinois

Kevin Hardy's first bout with anonymity came as a sophomore basketball player at Harrison High in Evansville, Ind., when he had the misfortune of playing with former Indiana great and current Washington Bullets swingman Calbert Cheaney and Kentucky starting forward Walter McCarty. With those guys around, Hardy's role quickly was defined.

"Cheaney told me my role was the trash-man," Hardy said. "I wasn't going to get the ball. I had to play defense and be a rebounder."

Hardy turned his athletic affection away from the hardwood and toward the football field, but during three years as a starting linebacker at Illinois, he still hasn't been able to attract much attention. Last season, Hardy—a 6-4, 240-pound senior—always was the fourth man mentioned on the talented Illini linebacking quartet, doing a little bit of everything while John Holecsek, Simeon Rice and Butkus Award winner Dana Howard piled up the statistics and headlines.

Things could get better this year, as Howard and Holecsek have graduated. That should allow Hardy to join Rice, who led the Big Ten with 16 sacks last year, in the spotlight. The attention will be long overdue.



With Dana Howard and John Holecsek no longer around at Illinois, Kevin Hardy will get some ink.

"I have coached more than 15 NFL linebackers in my career, and Kevin may be the most complete of all of them," Illinois Coach Lou Tepper said. "He could play all four linebacker positions here and excel at each."

Hardy has 4.6 speed that helps him blanket split ends, which he often is asked to do in Illinois' man-under pass coverage schemes. But he also has developed enough strength during the past two years to battle tackles and tight ends in running situations. As a sophomore, Hardy was manhandled by Penn State tight end Kyle Brady. Last season, Hardy held his own with the hulking, 6-6, 260-pound Brady.

Hardy's true value to the Illini comes from his versatility and ability to defend speedy players by himself. "I'm an all-purpose type," Hardy said. "You can put me down on the line, I can cover people, and I can blitz."

The sum of Hardy's parts is substantial, but his individual exploits aren't the type to attract much attention. He just does a lot of things well. That should attract some inter-

est this year. If it doesn't, Hardy shouldn't worry. Those guys in the NFL are pretty perceptive.

Ronde Barber, Virginia

Like any freshman redshirting at a Division I-A school, Ronde Barber didn't travel with the Virginia team during the 1993 season. He would tune in on the radio and cheer for the Cavaliers—and his twin brother, Tiki. That couldn't have been easy. After 18 years of doing everything together, particularly on the football field, the Barber brothers were spending some Saturday afternoons apart.

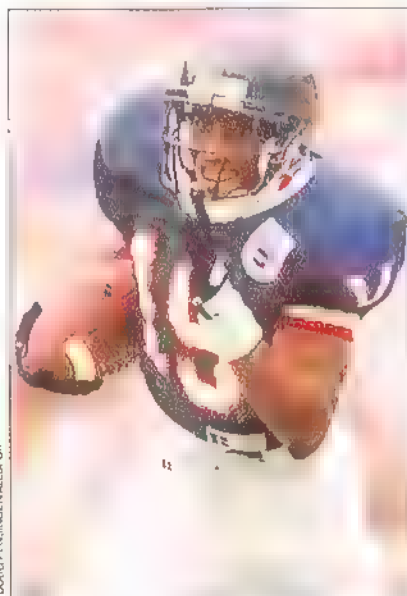
The decision to redshirt one freshman Barber and play the other was made because of roster considerations, not a gap in talent. The Cavaliers were stocked in the defensive backfield, so cornerback Ronde sat. But Virginia's offensive backfield wasn't as full, so halfback Tiki played.

"Tiki would go on road trips, and I would just sit at home with my radio," Ronde said, clearly not enjoying the memory. "When he'd come back, he'd tell me everything I had to look forward to."

No matter how accomplished a reporter Tiki was, there was no way for him to forecast exactly how much his brother would enjoy his first season as a Cavalier. Ronde started all 11 games at cornerback in '94, grabbing eight interceptions to lead the Atlantic Coast Conference and tie for second in the nation. He broke up a team-high 11 passes and made 55 tackles, securing a first team all-league berth and ACC Rookie

of the Year honors.

Part of his success came because rival quarterbacks figured they could feast on the apprentice cornerback, but most was because of his blend of speed and leaping ability. Ronde (5-10, 169 pounds) finished fourth in the 110-meter high hurdles at the 1994 ACC outdoor track championships. Cavaliers Coach George Welsh doesn't put Ronde in the same speed category as



Ronde Barber, a master pass thief for Virginia, is talking as if the Cavaliers just might steal an ACC victory against mighty Florida State this season.

Washington Redskins cornerback Darrell Green, but Welsh is impressed with Ronde's ability to accelerate and close on the ball.

"He's not a world-class runner, but he has excellent football speed," Welsh said. "He has great hand-eye coordination and can really jump."

Ronde isn't brash enough to predict another eight interceptions this season but agrees with his coach that he'll be a better player, regardless of statistics. Even though the bulk of the Cavaliers' secondary returns, quarterbacks will be careful when they throw Ronde's way. Anyway, interceptions are nice, but not as nice as wins or league titles. Ronde figures it's time someone supplanted Florida State as the ACC bully.

"We realize FSU isn't an icon of football now," said Barber, who played at Roanoke (Va.) Cave Spring High. "They come up to our place this year, and they'll be in store for a different kind of game than they're used to."

That's quite a statement, considering the Seminoles' 41-17 rout of Virginia last season. But Ronde is tired of someone else telling him what's going to happen. His numbers were pretty loquacious last year, and Ronde expects a similar on-field soliloquy in '95.

"I tell myself I'm the best on the field, but I leave it there," he said. "I'm not cocky. I'm confident." ♦

Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer based in Philadelphia.

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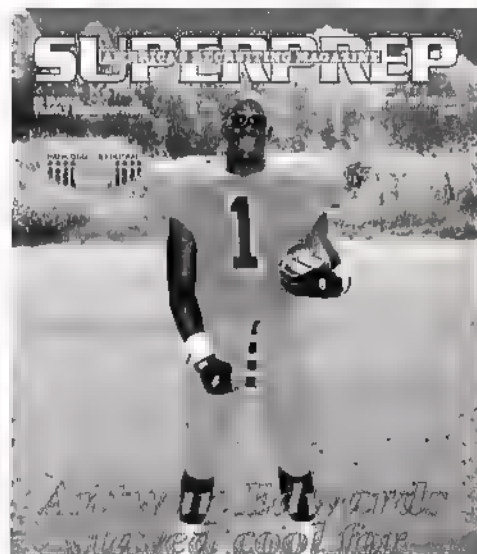
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BANDS, REVELRY, FRIENDSHIP

By **WILLIAM C. RHODEN**

"There ought not to be an American to die without coming to this game one time."

—Southern University Athletic Director Marino Casem, on the Bayou Classic

The night before Grambling State and Southern met in Bayou Classic XXI last Thanksgiving weekend, Isaac Greggs was in the bowels of the Louisiana Superdome, exhorting his Southern Jaguars to prepare for Armageddon.

This is do or die, he said of the competition that was about to be waged. He also reminded his troops that millions would watch their every move on national television the next day. No time for playing

around. Make sure equipment is tightened, lines are formed.

As Greggs spoke, a messenger arrived from Grambling, the Jaguars' archrival for the past six decades. Would Southern like to take the field first? Would Greggs mind if Grambling led the way?

Greggs paused, then smiled.

"Let them go first," he said, coolly drawing on a cigarette. "If we go first, there won't be anything left for the fans to see. We are going to kick their asses!"

Greggs isn't Southern's football coach and the troops aren't Jaguars football players. He is the school's band leader and his performers are members of the band. This is Friday evening, not Saturday afternoon. And this is the Battle of the Bands, a wildly popular show that has become a staple of

Bayou Classic weekend in New Orleans.

The Bayou Classic—part of it, anyway—is the annual football clash between the Grambling Tigers and Southern Jaguars, a get-together between two NCAA Division I-AA teams that shakes the 76,000-seat Superdome. The classic is hot. It's soulful. And it's more than a mere rivalry. Having celebrated its 20th anniversary in 1994, it has become a migration point for loyal alumni of the two Louisiana schools, a way of life for residents, a season-ending showcase for players and coaches and one grand party for thousands of people from throughout the nation who aren't associated with either university.

Grant Winrow, a Nashville resident, said he and his friends attended the '94 classic to have a good time. "We support black col-

leges—and this is the classic game," Winrow said. "We live all over the country and a lot of us couldn't get home for Thanksgiving. So we did the next-best thing—we came to New Orleans for the classic."

Like New Orleans itself, the classic offers a little bit of everything for everybody.

"We like to say we'll have fans in the Superdome from Portland, Oregon, to Portland, Maine," said Clarence Cunningham, a member of the Bayou Classic Committee and former vice chancellor of administration at Southern. "For the alums of the two schools, this has become the biggest weekend of the year. Something like a Super Bowl. So, yes, the Bayou Classic is definitely more than a football game."

Southern Athletic Director Marino Casem, the renowned "Godfather" of black college athletics and longtime football coach at Alcorn State, was even more emphatic about the standing of the game itself. "The people who support football at historically black colleges come to the game looking for a festive atmosphere and a good time," Casem said. "The football game is secondary, and



Grambling State's band went head over heels to please the crowd during halftime of the 1994 Bayou Classic. The night before, Grambling proved it could go tuba to tuba with Southern in a Battle of the Bands victory, but the football game was another matter.

sometimes thirddary."

The Bayou Classic, unlike many other college football spectacles, isn't a one-day affair. Or even a Friday-Saturday event. The most recent Bayou bash began on Wednesday, when New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial issued a special proclamation. By Friday afternoon, fans had crammed the French Quarter and Canal Street.

The goings-on surrounding the classic

said, "We don't prepare any different for Southern." But, a week earlier, as the Grambling football staff was scouting the Southern football team, Grambling's band personnel was scouting Southern's band to see what routines it may have added.

Greggs scoffed at the notion that Grambling's scouting venture would matter. "The difference between our band's

teams or bands—is enormous.

"It's extremely intense pressure because quite a few people come there just to see the bands," Johnson said. "The classic presents pressure like you've never envisioned before. It's like you're on center stage. And it's pressure that builds up all year long. It's not one week. When one Bayou Classic is over, the hype and everything starts for the next one. Almost the next day."

Much is written about the importance of bands at historically black schools. Virtually all of it is true. Bands are not only crucial to the overall pageantry of college football but also serve as critical appendages to black college football. The degree to which they're an integral part of the proceedings is evident in New Orleans, where otherwise-neutral Bayou Classic football fans often choose sides based on which band they like. Invariably, this decision is made the night before the game, when 40,000 fans show up at the Superdome for the Greek Stomp and the Battle of the Bands.

For first-time attendees, it's often an overwhelming experience as fraternities and sororities execute rigorous dance routines in furious competition and two great bands try to rock each other off the stands. Mostly, it's plain exhilarating.

The cavernous Superdome is dark except for lights focused on a stage set up near the 50-yard line; fans, some clad in the black and gold of Grambling and others wearing the powder blue and gold of Southern, sit side by side and cheer on their favorite step team. But for all the clunk and thundering of the steppers on stage, the event merely sets the table for the *real* war: the Battle of the Bands.

Forty-five minutes before the '94 show was to begin, Greggs sat on a metal folding chair. Surrounded by a swirl of activity, he barked instructions to band members and held court with former students (including a congressman and a state police officer) who came by. Even Jaleel White, who plays Urkel on TV's *Family Matters*, stopped to chat.

Grambling marched out first. The crowd, still buzzing over the step contest, broke into loud cheers of anticipation. Led by a high-stepping drum major, the Tigers' musicians marched in front of the enthusiastic audience, tubas bobbing and trumpets glistening. They were in a mambo-like groove as they took their seats. It was a dramatic entrance.

Now it was Southern's turn.

First to emerge were the Jaguars' majorettes, dressed in white gowns. The corps of drummers beat out an infectious rhythm to which the band members twisted and turned, bobbed and weaved. The pro-Southern crowd roared its approval.

The Grambling band sat on one side of the field, Southern on the other. A spotlight drenched each unit as it performed. As the competition swayed back and forth, the fans, in rapt attention, were judge and jury. The battle appeared even until Grambling pulled a rabbit out of the hat: a gospel group and a golden-voiced singer crooning *I Sing*

Continued

...oh, yeah, and FOOTBALL

Fans from throughout U.S. let good times roll in New Orleans when historically black colleges clash in soulful Bayou Classic

are substantive as well as festive. On Friday morning, a job fair attracted several major companies. That evening, an annual corporate reception recognized contributors to the scholarship fund for the two competing schools. And, in the first significant competition of the 1994 extravaganza, Grambling came out on top when Shelia Mutamba Rugege was named Miss Bayou Classic.

Clearly, most college football rivalries feature pregame activities that culminate in Saturday's Big Game. On Thanksgiving weekend in New Orleans, though, the events leading up to kickoff are in no way considered a prelude. Indeed, the Bayou Classic's pregame functions are events unto themselves. The Battle of the Bands on Friday night is a case in point.

Although they take place under the same expansive Superdome roof, the Bayou Classic's Battle of the Bands and its football game are practically separate entities. A victory in one head-to-head meeting isn't regarded as a victory in another.

Under the direction of Greggs, who arrived on the Southern campus in Baton Rouge in 1970, the Jaguars' band has emerged as one of the nation's preeminent college marching organizations. In fact, Southern was chosen to represent the United States last spring in a marching-band exhibition in China.

Asked if competing against the Jaguars' musicians was a daunting assignment, Maurice Johnson, Grambling's first-year band director,



The vibrant Greek Stomp competition features rigorous dance routines worthy of a tip of the hat. show and Grambling's will be the difference between riding in a Mercedes and riding in a Jeep," he predicted.

Southern and Grambling, bitter rivals as they are, don't see eye to eye on much, but the two Louisiana schools agree that the pressure to outperform each other—whether the competition involves football

Because I'm Happy. The popular gospel sound got the crowd on its feet, loving every minute of it.

Southern's Greggs was stumped. He didn't bring any deep spiritual music—and he didn't bring a gospel choir, either. Later, he would accuse Grambling of using professional talent.

"That guy is a preacher," Greggs said, referring to one of the crooners. "We don't focus on singing. If we wanted to do that, we'd have brought the choir. This is a band

there and who in your mind is the best. But everybody's generally able to tell."

You also can tell that the Battle of the Bands—with the Greek Stomp an added attraction—is the show-stopper of the Bayou Classic weekend.

Few understand the connection between the bands, black schools, American culture and African American tradition.

According to William P. Foster, the direc-

black colleges patterned their styles after the great black swing bands. "We used them as our sound models," said Hutchinson, who as a prodigy first played for the Tuskegee Institute band when he was 10 years old. "We took ideas on orchestration from the Jimmie Lunceford band."

Hutchinson said that while the Bayou Classic crowds are tremendous, impressive throngs of 30,000 and 40,000 turned up at Soldier Field in Chicago in the 1930s and 1940s to watch Alabama-based Tuskegee and Wilberforce (Ohio) play their annual game. "Even then, the bands were given credit for attracting most of the public," he recalled.

By the late 1950s and early 1960s, the bands at historically black colleges, especially the fast-stepping Florida A&M Marching 100, began to tap into the rhythm-and-blues current of African American culture. Eventually, they incorporated the latest dances into their routines as well. Marching bands at predominantly white schools stuck to the military principles.

"(Our) band fits the movement and maneuvers just like a glove," Foster said.

Still, there's considerably more to black college bands than enlivening football weekends. For example, once the helmets and shoulder pads are put away at Grambling, the Tigers' band embarks on an extensive concert season featuring classical performances. "After the last football game, we get back into the business of education," Johnson said. "Contrary to what a lot of people think, we don't do this year-round. These students have to learn about Bach, Beethoven and Mozart."

The football version of the Southern-Grambling rivalry began in 1932, at a time when those schools were the only public institutions in Louisiana that would accept African American students. Southern, whose Baton Rouge campus is located 80 miles northwest of New Orleans, was founded in 1880; Grambling, located in a northern Louisiana town (about 190 miles from Baton Rouge) bearing the school's name, opened its doors in 1901.

Forty-one years after their first meeting, the schools took their game off campus. Shreveport was the choice, and the 1973 game in that northwestern Louisiana city drew more than 40,000 fans. It was just the beginning.

The next year, Grambling Coach Eddie Robinson helped move the Southern-Grambling game to New Orleans' Tulane Stadium, longtime home of the Sugar Bowl, and called it the Bayou Classic. At the time, Robinson envisioned making the classic into a "black Sugar Bowl." His inspiration had come in 1964, when Grambling played Florida A&M before 48,000 fans in the Orange Blossom Classic in Miami's Orange



It's 2 a.m. on game day—do you know where your Bayou Classic fans are? Where else but Bourbon Street in the French Quarter. The party atmosphere is just part of the Thanksgiving weekend bash that lures African American fans (many of whom aren't associated with either competing university) to New Orleans in astounding numbers.

competition."

No, it's the Bayou Classic, and anything goes.

When Grambling finished, Southern attempted an up-tempo spiritual. Grambling then went to its playbook and answered with *Pieces of Silver*, another popular gospel selection. The crowd erupted again.

There are no formal judges in these affairs; no winners are ever announced. There also is no mistake about it: Grambling's band won the battle in '94.

"Overall, you judge by the crowd reaction toward what you're doing," Grambling's Johnson said. "If the crowd reaction is favorable, you might pretty much ascertain who you think won. You leave it for the masses and the public to debate over. We don't give out trophies and say first place and second place. It's however you leave

tor of Florida A&M's band for nearly 50 years, the history of black college marching bands has its roots in ancient Africa and Asia. Foster, whose dissertation on black bands became the authoritative reference on the subject, has his FAMU drum majors carry maces, which resemble the long poles carried by African chiefs.

Harold Bray, band director at Bethune-Cookman College and a member of Grambling's band as a student, said that black bands started out mimicking the predominantly white schools' military-band tradition, which features crispness and precision rather than flash and continues in that vein to this day. But after about five decades, the black bands created their own style.

Conrad Hutchinson Jr., band director at Grambling from 1953 to the mid-1980s, said the early marching bands at historically

Bowl

It took 10 years for Robinson's vision to become a reality. On November 23, 1974, 76,753 fans—the most ever to watch a game between two historically black colleges—saw freshman Doug Williams lead Grambling to a 21-0 victory over Southern at Tulane's creaky stadium.

Doc Williams, the Southern trainer, said the first game set the tone for what was to follow. "Man, New Orleans was jumping," he said. "It was like Mardi Gras. There were so many people in that old stadium. Without a doubt, it was a real feat to see that many people come together."

Doug Williams went on to a fine pro career and was the Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl XXII. But he said the first Bayou game will stick in his mind nearly as much as his performance for Washington in the Redskins' Super Bowl triumph over Denver.

"I'll never forget running out of the dressing room into Tulane Stadium and seeing about 80,000 people in the stands," Williams said. "It was unbelievable. And the majority were black Americans. Just unbelievable."

The next season, the Bayou Classic moved to the new Superdome, where the game has never attracted fewer than 50,000 fans and often has surpassed the 70,000 mark. Along the way, it has brought football fans, proud alumni, out-of-towners, music lovers, hotel guests, shoppers, diners and partygoers to New Orleans in extraordinary numbers.

The scope of the Bayou Classic's finan-

cial impact consistently has been a point of pride—actually, a point of proof—that African Americans will support their own segment of the sports industry.

Bill Langkopp, the executive director of the Greater New Orleans Hotel and Motel Association, called the Bayou Classic a "valuable piece of business on our calen-

for anyone who has read stories about the nonexistent black sports fan, the sight of 70,000-plus black fans in New Orleans may be one of the most striking elements of the classic.

As a result of the Bayou Classic's boon to the economy, Robinson, once rebuffed in his efforts to get the Sugar Bowl committee to endorse the Grambling-Southern game for New Orleans like the Orange Bowl had embraced Florida A&M's Orange Blossom Classic for Miami, now finds New Orleans officials determined to keep this \$34 million cash cow in their backyard. (Assuring better group rates at hotels is among the key steps the city has taken.)

"The Bayou Classic is the pride of my lifetime," Robinson, 76, says today. That's saying a lot, in view of his status as college football's all-time winningest coach (397 victories in 52 seasons at Grambling) and his ability to produce pro players by the bushelful. It's also poignant when you consider that as a rural Louisianan growing up in the shadow of Louisiana

State University and listening to the Sugar Bowl on the radio, Robinson wondered if he could ever be part of anything so spe-

Continued



As exciting as the "step show" is on Friday night, it merely sets the table for the weekend's most upbeat event—the Battle of the Bands.

dar." Valuable indeed. The event brings more than 40,000 visitors to New Orleans, fills 20,000 rooms and pushes the occupancy rate to 80 percent at a time of the year when sales and visitors once lagged. And

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cial as LSU football and the Sugar Bowl. He need not wonder anymore.

With the possible exception of Robinson, no one associated with the Bayou Classic could have predicted the extent to which it has become a social magnet.

Thousands of fans who attend the classic don't have ties to either school. "We just come for the bands," said Gloria Grayson, who with her husband drove to New Orleans last year from Orange, Texas.

"It's like a reunion," Southern A.D. Casem said. "A time to socialize with old friends and forget your troubles."

"How big a game is the Bayou Classic?" asked Nate Singleton, a former Grambling standout now with the San Francisco 49ers. "Down in Louisiana, to black folks, it's *the* event. . . . I mean, some people don't even talk about Thanksgiving. It's 'OK, what are you going to wear to the classic? Where am I staying? What are we doing that week?' And then after all that, then maybe they start thinking about Thanksgiving."

If some fans aren't thinking about turkey, more than a few aren't thinking about football, either.

"People don't even come for the game," said Johnson, Grambling's band maestro, no doubt taking pride in the Battle of the Bands' power to lure fans.

The Bayou Classic is an event in which sports and music become deeply intertwined with culture and sociology. It is an environment where football isn't played and bands aren't paraded for their own sake, but instead as reflections of a great institution in African American culture: the historically black college. And it is an environment that is positively electric, as the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* pointed out in an editorial last November: The classic has "the kind of pageantry and pulsating collegiate energy that has helped the annual football game find an important niche in a crowded field of Big Easy big events."

For all the hype, the classic is tame compared to other events New Orleans has known. No painted faces, no men running around half-naked. There is little alcohol-related intoxication, only intoxication induced by the joy of simply being there. There is, however, loud trash-talking.

The Southern-Grambling rivalry contains all the ingredients of a great matchup: a clash of the small-town school (Grambling) vs. the large (Southern); rural Grambling, La., population 5,500, with stretches of farmland and fields, vs. urban Baton Rouge, population 220,000, with stretches of office buildings and industry; Grambling in the northern part of the state, Southern to the south.

"There are just different characteristics between the north and the south," Casem said. "The flavor here is of a great festival. You've got the hot spicy food. You've got Mardi Gras. People here are more industrial and in touch with the political atmosphere."

Whatever the contrasts, the Bayou Classic provides a way to keep in touch. There are some fans, though, who remember life long before the classic, when there were no crowds and barely a football team. Perkie Lee Frazier, one of the first students to complete a four-year program at Grambling in 1944, once recalled how Robinson, who began his Grambling coaching career in 1941, reacted to the exodus of

ly televised Bayou Classic—the 1995 game will be played on November 25 at the Superdome—can salvage a lost season or embellish a good one. "We really need a win for our fans," Southern linebacker Kenya Rounds said before the '94 game. "They look at the Bayou Classic as a measuring stick. If we come out with a win, everything will be all right."

The magnitude of the game isn't lost on Southern quarterback Eric Randall, either.

"No one who has ever stepped onto the playing field for the Bayou Classic can make the statement that this is just another game," Randall said. "You have to take it to another level, just because you're actually playing in the Bayou Classic, Southern and Grambling: This is for all the marbles."

Except that no one wins *all* the marbles at the Bayou Classic.

A year ago, Grambling's half-time show was pleasing, a much-needed improvement on its 1993 performance when a rapper, seemingly inebriated, embarrassed the Grambling audience and prompted the hiring of Johnson. Tigers fans needed a boost, too. Their team trailed Southern by three touchdowns at halftime.

Southern's band, upstaged the night before in the Battle of the Bands, performed acrobatics and played funky music. Then, in a masterstroke, it formed the half-time score—0-21—and marched off the field. The crowd went wild.

"That formation was nothing new—they do that every year," Grambling director Johnson grumbled. "We try to come out with different and innovative things every year."

The Bayou Classic itself is spawning innovation. The New Orleans spectacle, part of a lineage that began with Florida A&M's Orange Blossom Classic and the Magic City Classic in Birmingham, has inspired a generation of new games, including the Chicago Classic, Circle City Classic in Indianapolis, State Fair Classic in Dallas, Gateway Classic in St. Louis and Heritage Bowl in Atlanta.

Without question, though, the multifaceted and widely popular Bayou Classic has evolved into the Cadillac of them all. It offers something for everyone: a job fair, scholarship fund-raiser, Greek Stomp, social events, reunions, music deeply rooted in black culture and, yes, a little football.

Those last two items are of paramount interest. As has been duly noted, Grambling won the Battle of the Bands last year. However, Southern wound up winning the football game, 34-7. At the Bayou Classic, it's not clear which victory is more important. ♦

William C. Rhoden is a columnist for The New York Times.



Southern's Kenya Rounds (number 53) says fans use the classic as a measuring stick. The Jaguars measured up last year, hounding Grambling's Kendrick Nord.

men from the campus during World War II (when the school had two football-less seasons): "Rob said he wasn't going to have any ladies at Grambling that didn't know how to play the game." So, she said, the coach taught football to female students.

The Southern-Grambling rivalry—be it football, music or on the academic level—is less a battle between bitter enemies than an annual tiff between first cousins who love each other, love competing against each other, love sharing the good times afterward. The universities are deeply competitive in-state schools and Southwestern Athletic Conference rivals.

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ONCE A TROJAN, ALWAYS A TROJAN

From ballboy to star wideout, Johnson's USC roots run deep

By BOB KEISSER

The Keyshawn Johnson story is about family, money, family, security, family, love and family. And a big peach pie.

We'll save dessert for last. The Keyshawn Johnson you will see at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, around the Pac-10 and on *SportsCenter* highlights this season is Southern California's senior wide receiver, the best returning pass-catcher in the nation and an All-America and Heisman Trophy candidate.

Last year, he caught 66 passes for 1,362 yards and nine touchdowns despite missing most of two games. He led the Trojans to an 8-3-1 record and a 55-14 Cotton Bowl rout of Texas Tech. With his size (6-foot-4, 205 pounds), speed (4.5) and still-developing receiving skills, he probably would have been a first-round pick in the April NFL draft if he hadn't decided to return to USC.

As good as UCLA's J.J. Stokes was as a collegian, Johnson is a step better because he's a full step faster. "He's fitting into the mold of the tall receiver with good speed, like Michael Irvin, Jerry Rice, Alvin Harper and Stokes," USC Coach John Robinson said.

So why did he return? Family. Not his mother, Vivian Jessie, or his five brothers and sisters, though, as much as his extended Trojan family.

USC alums talk about the Trojan family often enough to make Pac-10 rivals see cardinal. "Once a Trojan, always a Trojan" sounds like an advertising cliché left over from the Marlboro Man of the '60s, before tobacco ads were surgically removed from television.

But it is absolute truth in the case of Johnson, who essentially has had two USC careers: one as a young fan and one as a young star. The merger of the two careers has made Johnson a significant model for the choices offered to inner-city youth, and as much a part of the Trojan image as Tommy Trojan, a bronze statue of a warrior in the center of campus, and Traveler, the white horse that appears at USC home games.

Johnson first became acquainted with USC in 1979, at the age of 7. To Johnson, the product of a one-parent home, USC was at first "that big park" near Williams Elementary School, a place for Johnson and his friends to play after school, and sometimes during it.

He eventually stumbled across football practice, and took a liking to the game, the Trojans and their players. He became a fixture, an unofficial mascot and ballboy. He would help the equipment men carry bags, shag balls and run errands. He also helped stuff envelopes in the sports information office and sell programs at USC baseball and basketball games.

Ronnie Lott bought Johnson and his friends pizza. Marcus Allen demanded to know why they weren't in school. Johnson would eat at the team's post-practice training table. Associate Sports Information Director Nancy Mazmanian would drive him home whenever he stayed past dusk.

Practice attendance turned into game tickets, which then became sideline passes. It reached the point where if Johnson missed a day or two of practice, the players would wonder where he was.

"Here was a place where I could hang out," said Johnson, who turned 23 this summer. "It became a habit, day after day, year after year. I must have gone to USC just about every day between the ages of 8 and 14."

Eventually, Trojans players Scott Tinsley and Tim Shannon, who were at USC from 1979-82, opened their apartment to Keyshawn and told him to make himself comfortable. It was a little home-away-from-home for Johnson, a place to flop if it got too late to go home, a place where Tinsley would hover over Johnson's shoulder and make sure he did his homework.

"That was an important part of my life," said Johnson, who was about 9 at the time. "I see a lot of the players from those days and they're doing so well for themselves, either playing football or in the business world. It makes you want to be successful like them, not just in winning the Heisman or playing pro ball, but in being looked at in the public eye as a good human being."

"When people like Nancy and Scott go out of their way to help you—not because they had to but because they wanted to, because they liked you—it leaves quite an impression on you. Those people really helped me."

"I never asked him what kind of life he had when he wasn't at USC," said Tinsley, a former Trojans quarterback who now works for a title insurance company and is a partner in a sports bar in Laguna Nigel, Calif. "I didn't know his family."

"What I did know was that he was a kid who only wanted to do good. I don't know what role Tim and I might have played in his growing up, and I wouldn't presume we did anything special. He was street smart; I probably learned as much from him."

Johnson never really wanted to leave USC, but a little thing got in the way: life. He was now a teenager facing the peer pressure inherent in being a teenager. Hanging around at USC no longer was a cool thing to do.

And USC was changing, too. John Robinson left after the 1982 season. Tinsley graduated, Johnson was welcome during the Ted Tollner regime, but that lasted just four years. When Larry Smith was hired before the '87 campaign, the door was closed on a lot of USC traditions. By that time, the 15-year-old Johnson was clearly on the wrong side of it.

He got immersed in street life, running with a gang, getting involved in petty theft, and even selling drugs.

"I was a teenager by then and I had grown out of hanging around USC," he said. "But I didn't have any sense of direction. I came from a one-parent home, and neither mom nor my brothers or sisters

could tell me what to do.

"Everyone that I knew at USC was just about gone, the coaches and the players. My attitude became, 'Oh, well, let me go hang out at school or the park and get in some trouble here.' After awhile, you fall into that kind of pattern. It's pretty easy to do in L.A.

"I wasn't violent. I didn't even do those things because I needed money. My mom had a good job and provided for her kids. I just wanted a change of pace."

He was arrested as an eighth-grader for misdemeanor theft and placed in a correctional facility for nine months. Upon his release, his mom moved him to different parts of the city, trying to find a haven. Johnson attended Canoga Park High and Palisades High before winding up back in the inner city, and back in football, at Dorsey High.

He was an all-city receiver with great talent who was recruited by most major colleges with one notable exception—USC. The Trojan hierarchy, Smith and Athletic Director Mike McGee, had decided that they no longer would admit Prop 48 candidates.

Even UCLA came calling on Johnson, advising him what classes and test scores he needed to go to Westwood. As much as he was a Trojan at heart, he respected that effort; the fact USC didn't make an effort hurt him deeply.

He signed with the University of Miami but never made it to South Florida, unable to reach the needed score on the SAT. He wound up at West Los Angeles Community College in 1991, but quit after four games to concentrate on academics. The following year, he considered transferring to junior colleges in South Carolina and Mississippi before deciding to stay in California. Johnson sat out the 1992 season and learned how to be a student. He returned to the field at West L.A. in 1993 and earned junior college All-America honors after making 55 catches for 1,245 yards and 12 touchdowns in just nine games.

By then, Robinson was back at USC, and the old traditions had been restored. The gangly kid "who couldn't even play basketball," as Tinsley recalls, had grown into a player and wanted to be a man, and USC was ready to welcome him back into the family.

"If (Robinson) had been at USC back then (his high school years), I believe I would have come to USC right away," Johnson said. "My motivation level to study and succeed would have made me work harder. I wish I was a freshman or a sophomore, with a whole USC career ahead of me."

That feeling permeated Johnson to the degree that he decided to wait one more year to begin his NFL career. He won't have

Rob Johnson throwing to him, but Keyshawn still should thrive with either Brad Otton or Kyle Wacholtz at quarterback.

"My mom told me she wanted me to stay in school," Johnson said. "I said, 'But Mommy, we could be \$5 million richer and we could live in Bel Air.' She said, 'Boy, stay in school. If the Lord wants you to play on Sundays, he'll make sure you play on Sundays.' You know what will make my mom most proud? Getting a degree. That money won't make her proud. She's an older lady and money can't make her happy. She loves seeing me play football and being a USC student."

"You know what John Robinson said he

"I don't think I've ever met a person more prepared for the pressures of college football," USC receivers coach Mike Sanford said. "There are certain things people dream about, and when they get there it just feels natural. Keyshawn has always pictured himself playing at USC."

"I compliment him for getting through all that he's gone through," said Shannon, now a lawyer and player agent. "You could tell back then that he wanted to be different."

"I can't say enough about him," Tinsley said. "You knew he always wanted to do good. You can talk about what role we may have played in his life, but in reality he picked us, and he alone has turned his life around."

Johnson now spends much of his free time talking to youth groups about the choices they have. He likes to say there are three options out of the inner city—school, jail or the cemetery. He often tells deep, touching stories about old friends who chose the other options.

"I tell kids, 'Look where I come from.' Just because I had to walk a crooked line doesn't mean I couldn't achieve my goals and dreams," Johnson said. "I tell kids to believe in what you want to believe in, and don't let anyone get in the way."

Now, about that pie.

When Johnson was hanging out at Tinsley's apartment, he had carte blanche to visit. One time, though, he came by and no one was home. All the doors were locked. So he jimmied open the sliding-glass door and let himself in.

Then he got hungry, so he made himself a stack of pancakes. He was still hungry, so he made himself a big peach pie. Then he fell asleep. Late for home when he awoke, he ran off without cleaning up.

"I walked in," said Tinsley with a chuckle, "and the oven was still on at about 300 degrees, there was a stack of dirty pancake dishes on the table, and a half-eaten peach pie. I asked Keyshawn if he had come by, and he said, 'No way.' I kept drilling him until he finally gave it up, mainly because he needed a ride somewhere."

"They always said they worried about me when I wasn't there," Johnson said. "The back door was always open, so I was surprised when it was locked. So I sort of let myself in. When they walked in and saw the place was a mess, they said, 'Hmmm, pancakes, peach pie. Now who can this be?'"

It takes awhile for Tinsley to stop laughing. "He's a dandy, isn't he?" he said.

And for one more year, and the rest of his life, a USC dandy. ♦

Bob Keisser is a columnist for the Long Beach (Calif.) Press-Telegram.



Academic shortcomings forced Keyshawn Johnson to attend a junior college following a standout prep career. He was able to join his Trojan family last season and enjoyed a smashing debut. Now he has Heisman aspirations.

wanted? He didn't say he wanted me to be an All-American or win the Heisman or have an NFL career. He said he wants to see me graduate. He'll be so upset with me if I don't graduate. If something were to happen to me, I would have a USC degree to fall back on. I could be a probation officer or counselor. I could coach. When my playing career is over, I want to come back to USC and be an assistant."

Not a head coach? "Nah, offensive coordinator. I don't need all that pressure," he said, laughing.

SETTING AN ALL-AMERICA PAGE

By JOE POSNANSKI

They couldn't believe it. They watched Orlando Pace work out, simply work out in the Columbus, Ohio, summer heat, before the season even began—and they couldn't believe what this kid was doing.

Doing? What wasn't he doing? He smashed through a defensive lineman. He dropped back and held off a defender in a pass formation. One word from the coaches, and he adjusted his feet. One order, and he changed his position, as if on remote control. He was too big, too strong, too fast, too versatile. He had those long arms, those quick feet and that balance. God, a wrecking ball couldn't knock this man over. This kid. This freshman.

And so the Ohio State coaches watched open-mouthed, like children at the fair, and shook their heads.

"What did I tell you?" offensive tackle/tight end coach Lee Owens said.

"Unbelievable," Coach John Cooper answered.

This just doesn't happen. Offensive linemen just don't happen. In high school, giant 6-foot-6, 270-pound boys overwhelm defenses with wrestling moves and muscle. But then they go to college, and they must relearn everything.

Not Pace. In fact, he's so good he may be considered the best offensive lineman in college football history by the time he leaves Buckeyeland. That's a mouthful, but it's not a preposterous notion when you compare Pace's start to other all-time great blockers.

Like Pace, Bill Fralic started from Day One at Pitt. A two-time All-America (1983, '84), Fralic finished sixth in Heisman Trophy voting as a senior in '84. But few can match the freshman feats of Pace and Fralic.

Anthony Munoz might be the greatest tackle to ever play pro football, but when he was a freshman reserve at Southern California in 1976, he felt the breeze of defensive linemen sprinting past. He never was a consensus All-America. Two-time Nebraska All-America center Dave Runington, who won consecutive Outland trophies ('81 and '82) and the Lombardi Award ('82), finished fifth in Heisman vot-

ing in 1982. That was the highest showing by an offensive lineman since 1973, when Ohio State tackle John Hicks finished second. But Rimington was a reserve as a red-shirt freshman in 1979. Even Michigan State monster Tony Mandarich—the No. 2 overall pick in the 1989 NFL draft—had to endure a red-shirt year (1984) before he began to pancake Big Ten foes.

And so the most amazing thing about reticent Orlando Pace is that he walked on campus at Ohio State complete, 6-foot-5, 320 pounds, an instant all-star offensive lineman, just add water. He was the starter at the Buckeyes' first practice, and he started every snap afterward. Coaches couldn't believe what they were seeing.

"I stood there that first day and all I could think was, 'Wow,'" said Owens, now the coach at Akron. "I mean wow, he's incredible. And you have to understand, I had already coached Korey Stringer, so I thought I knew a little something about offensive linemen. But this kid, to know everything he knew, to understand everything so well, it was absolutely remarkable."

Now, they wonder how good he can become. He's so good already. He was the first Ohio State offensive lineman to start his first game as a freshman, then he was the first to start his second game as a freshman, this at a school that has had 15 alumni on NFL offensive lines since 1980, this at a school with eight different All-Americas



Offensive linemen don't just happen, but huge Orlando Pace (right), as a freshman in 1994, demonstrated an extraordinary grasp of the finer points of playing tackle.

on the offensive line since freshmen became eligible to play in 1972. Pace was named Big Ten Freshman of the Year by both the media and coaches, an unprecedented feat. More amazing is that he turned the trick in a year when Indiana's Alex Smith rushed for 1,475 yards—the most ever by a Big Ten freshman.

Pace's year was astonishing. He started the first game, a 34-10 victory against Fresno State in the Pigskin Classic, and played every snap. He shut out Illinois' Simeon Rice, an All-Big Ten linebacker who led the league with 16 sacks, in a 24-10 loss. He overwhelmed a Michigan defensive line as Ohio State beat the Wolverines, 22-6, for the first time in seven tries under Cooper. And his best game might have been a 48-14 victory over Purdue when, Pace said, "I started really dominating people. That was fun."

And he did this though defenses attacked him. At right tackle, the 6-5, 315-pound

Stringer, a two-time All-Big Ten choice, developed a reputation as a man not to be trifled with. So defenses tried to shift things toward Pace. Foes lined up their best pass rushers against Pace, they ran complicated patterns at Pace. And he kept adjusting, kept protecting the quarterback, and the Buckeyes soon felt as comfortable running behind him as Stringer, the coaches' pick as Big Ten Freshman of the Year in 1992.

"He didn't have one bad game that I can remember," Cooper said of Pace.

Now, Pace will be a sophomore, a key element as Ohio State tries for its first Rose Bowl since the 1984 season. How good can he be?

"Uh, well, I just don't know," Owens said.

Don't ask Pace, either. He's a man of few words who leaves foes muttering to themselves.

"It's really unusual to see a guy do what he's done," Purdue Coach Jim Colletto said. "I've been coaching offensive linemen for a lot of years and I've seen it maybe a handful of times.

"He's as good as a lot of juniors and seniors around the country right now. He's made some mistakes, freshman mistakes, you know, but physically he can play with any of them. He held his own against some of the best players in the Big Ten and that alone should tell you something."

The strangest part is there's really nobody to chart Pace against. He is 30 or 40 pounds bigger than most of college football's greatest linemen—Rimington and Fralic, for instance. And he is far ahead of

Ohio State's Orlando Pace is a chip off great block(ers) of past—and could be best ever

others his size, like former Louisiana Tech All-America Willie Roaf, who struggled just to stand up his first season on campus (1988), or Michigan All-America Greg Skrepenak, who was redshirted his first year ('87) in Ann Arbor.

Even Stringer, perhaps the biggest and best tackle in America as a junior last season, came to Ohio State at 267 pounds.

"Orlando's maturity was unbelievable," Owens said. "That just doesn't happen to young kids. His body matured so quickly. And whatever they threw at him, he picked it up. He just picks up things so quickly."

This was the part that stunned everybody. Certainly, Pace entered the college ranks with a big reputation, with an imposing physique, with remarkable balance, with those long arms that hold off defenders. But it was the way he adapted, the way he listened to coaches and instantly adjusted that shocked Owens and Cooper.

"It's something you just have to see," said his Sandusky (Ohio) High coach, Larry Cook. "You look him in the eye and tell him

ALL-AMERICA OFFENSE				
WR	Bobby Engram	5-10/185	Sr.	Penn State
WR	Keyshawn Johnson	6-4/205	Sr.	USC
TE	Brian Collins	6-5/226	Sr.	TCU
T	Jonathan Ogden	6-8/315	Sr.	UCLA
T	Orlando Pace	6-5/320	Soph.	Ohio State
G	Jeff Hartings	6-3/278	Sr.	Penn State
G	Chris Naeole	6-4/280	Jr.	Colorado
C	Clay Shiver	6-2/275	Sr.	Florida State
QB	Tommie Frazier	6-2/205	Sr.	Nebraska
RB	Stephen Davis	6-2/228	Sr.	Auburn
RB	Leeland McElroy	5-11/196	Jr.	Texas A&M
K	Michael Proctor	5-11/183	Sr.	Alabama

something, and he understands. He tries everything you say. He believes you, and he puts it to work. When you coach for a while, you just realize how rare that is."

Understand, Pace was supposed to be something special. By the time he left Sandusky High, he weighed more than 300 pounds, he could run, and every major college coach in the country knew about him. He played offense and defense, he was agile enough to play in the Ohio All-Star basketball game, and for a while he received 100 recruiting letters a week. Owens remembered one cold night when he skidded along the icy Ohio highways just to see Pace play hoops. "This is stupid,"

recruiting visit, Stringer said. "You and me on the same line." Pace knew then that he would start Game 1.

"He doesn't say a whole lot," Cook said. "But he came back from that weekend and told me, 'I'm going to Ohio State and start right away.' Once Orlando makes up his mind about something like that, you don't argue."

And so, after Pace overwhelmed everybody in preseason drills, Cooper decided to start him right away just to see how he handled things. Pace and Stringer ended up starting together all season. In the last regular-season game, against Michigan, they often lined up on the same side and overwhelmed the poor defender with more than 600 pounds of offensive force.

"When we lined up together, you saw his eyes light up a little bit," Stringer said.

"That was the most fun I had all year," Pace said. "We just destroyed anybody who was standing in our way. We dominated."

Now, Stringer is gone to the NFL, where he went with a year of eligibility remaining, and nobody knows Pace's limits, if indeed he has any. Nobody likes throwing added pressure on a 19-year-old, but there's never been an offensive lineman in the Big Ten who has accomplished so much at such a young age, and the Big Ten has had some pretty fair linemen over the years. And even Ohio State, where Jim Parker (1956) and Hicks (1973) each won the Outland and Jim Lachey was an All-America (1984), never has had anything quite like Pace.

"Obviously, if he keeps improving the way he has, there's no telling how good he can be," Cooper said. "He's already pretty darned good."

Pace, himself, doesn't like talking about it much. But he does say he will dominate this season. He enjoys dominating.

"I'm getting faster," Pace said. "Stronger. I felt better every game last season, and I got better every game."

"This year, I should really be ready to roll." ♦

Joe Posnanski is a columnist for the Cincinnati Post.

he thought. "Nobody else would do this." He walked into the gym and ran directly into then-Miami coach Dennis Erickson.

This is how dominating Pace was in high school. Sandusky had this counter play where the running back, LeAndre Moore, would follow Pace. On one play, Moore, a gifted player who received a scholarship to Ball State, chased Pace for 50 yards into the end zone. *The running back could not catch up.*

"Sure, Orlando could have gone to any school in the country," Cook said, "because what everybody saw was that he wasn't just a big guy. He was an athlete in a big man's body. If he had been 5-10, 185, then he would have been a heck of a wide receiver. He could run. He had coordination. You just don't see that in big guys."

"Yeah, we knew he was going to be good," Owens said. "But we had no idea."

Pace chose Ohio State for two reasons. First, he liked Stringer. And second, he wanted to start right away. He says Ohio State made him no promises, but during his

ANOTHER ROUND OF BRUSCHI

By ANTHONY GIMINO

During his first interview session at the University of Arizona, Tedy Bruschi wore his helmet, gave one-word answers and cleverly turned his back to a persistent photographer.

It was one week before the Wildcats' 1991 season opener at Ohio State, and Coach Dick Tomey had named the seemingly publicity-shy Bruschi, a true freshman, as a starter on the defensive line.

And that was extraordinary news. As far as a check of league records could determine, a true freshman defensive lineman had never started for a Pacific-10 Conference team in his first college game. The only question at the time: Who the heck is Tedy Bruschi?

He was a mere footnote during the previous year's recruiting class, and when asked after practice one day about his background, goals, hopes and dreams, Bruschi simply growled and mumbled. Yes. No. I don't know.

Since then, it has been impossible to keep him quiet.

The silent treatment was merely a ruse, so he wouldn't upstage the team's veterans. Telephone calls to his hometown of Roseville, Calif., near Sacramento, revealed this tidbit: The staff of the *Sacramento Bee* listed things it would miss from the previous high school season, and "Quotes from Roseville's Tedy Bruschi" ranked among the top items.

"People love sports so much because of the personalities involved," said Bruschi, a consensus All-America defensive end last season. "I'm not afraid to let people know who Tedy Bruschi is."

Or, presumably, to tell them how his first name is spelled (yes, one "d") and how his last name is pronounced (yes, "BREW-ski").

To be sure, the free-spirited Bruschi is the most quotable, recognizable and flamboyant member of the Desert Swarm, arguably the nation's finest defense over the past three years.

He also is its most popular player. Clearly.

"My girlfriend's mother was picking up pictures at the store recently, and she asked the guy if they were ready. We had been in Mexico," Bruschi said.

"He said, 'Oh, the ones with Bruschi in them?' This guy had noticed me on the negatives. I think that pretty much sums it up."

Bruschi revealed some of his flair during a magazine photo shoot in the fall of 1993.

Dressed in borrowed combat fatigues and taken to a Tucson military base, Bruschi was handed an unloaded combat rifle and was left to his imagination.

Finding the equipment to his liking, he lay prone on a tank, aiming the rifle at an imagined target.

"Boom, Stenstrom," he said.

"Boom, Barr."

"Boom, Johnson."

Stanford's Steve Stenstrom, California's Dave Barr and Southern California's Rob Johnson no longer will be around for Bruschi to pick off, but they have all fallen at Bruschi's hands. Despite carrying the label of "too short, too small, can't play," Bruschi has 36½ sacks in his past 36 games, celebrating most of them with wild arm gestures, bows to the crowd and impromptu, funky dances.

Arizona Stadium fans react with cries of "Bruuuuuuuu."

Speed is his game. Bring out the big offensive tackles and he will run around them. As a sophomore, he led the Pacific-10 with 19 sacks and 26½ tackles for losses, capping his season with defensive MVP honors in Arizona's 29-0 thrashing of Miami in the Fiesta Bowl.

Tomey's pat answer when asked about Bruschi's abilities: "His motor is running all the time." Asked to explain further, Tomey will say: "There is something inside of him that is just special."

"If you don't have fun in what you do, it's not worth it," said Bruschi, who isn't particularly imposing at 6-foot-1 and 255 pounds. "I don't know any other way to say it—just have fun in life. Period."

Bruschi, meriting more attention from blocking schemes, recorded 13 sacks and 18 tackles for losses last season, helping the Wildcats lead the league in sacks (47) for the second consecutive season.

"I think he learned something about himself last year," Tomey said. "I think he got too heavy toward the end of the regular season. And then for the bowl game (Freedom



Tedy Bruschi's emotional play has helped the 6-foot-1, 255-pounder beat the rap of being "too short, too small." His great speed hasn't hurt, either.

Bowl, vs. Utah), he cut 10-15 pounds and I think that really helped him. He's better at 235 or 240 pounds." Bruschi had three sacks in a 16-13 loss to the Utes.

Senior strong safety Brandon Sanders and Bruschi are the acknowledged leaders, emotionally and physically, of the Desert Swarm.

"Some players are strictly business and you can't tell if they are having fun or not," said Sanders, who at 5-10 and 175 pounds is another player once considered too slight to succeed in college. "Me and Tedy, we want to show everybody that we are enjoying ourselves."

If not for some good fortune, the only skills Bruschi would be showing a college football crowd would be his musical ones. His family moved from San Francisco to Roseville when he was 13—"My mom wanted to get away from the city and she felt a quake was coming," Bruschi explained—and he was convinced by friends to try out for freshman football.

Convincing his mother was a different matter. Juanita Sandys wanted her saxophone-playing son to continue as a band member.

"Mom, I need cleats," he pleaded.

"No," she responded. "I'm not going to

get you the best cleats money can buy. What if you don't like it and quit in a few days?"

So, Bruschi walked into his first football practice, his feet firmly planted in an old pair of high tops. He noticed everybody else had cleats. A few weeks later, realizing her son was serious about football, his mother relented. Bruschi would never lack for footwear again.

He pulled double duty as a prep sophomore, playing in junior-varsity games on Thursday and joining the band for Friday's varsity games.

"When I made the varsity (as a junior), I had to make a choice," he said. "I dropped the sax and stayed with the team. That was a good decision."

UCLA was the first school to send him a recruiting letter, after his junior season. He was amazed. "It had a nice little gold helmet in the corner," Bruschi said.

But getting a letter and getting an offer are different things, and when it came time for the Bruins to make a decision, they took back their invitation for an official visit. Perhaps ruefully, UCLA Coach Terry Donahue has since summed up Bruschi as "dominating."

"Some people get really hung up on computer games and numbers," said Bruschi's high school coach, Bob Jellison. "Some people backed off on him because of his height, but that's asinine."

Meanwhile, Arizona assistant coach Marc Lunsford, a longtime participant in the Northern California recruiting wars, spotted Bruschi on tape and knew immediately he had uncovered a gem.

Washington State was the only other Pac-10 school to offer a scholarship. And while

ALL-AMERICA DEFENSE

DE	Tedy Bruschi	6-1/255	Sr.	Arizona
DT	Marcus Jones	6-6/278	Sr.	North Carolina
DE	Brandon Mitchell	6-4/270	Jr.	Texas A&M
OLB	Donnie Edwards	6-3/216	Sr.	UCLA
ILB	Dwayne Curry	6-3/248	Jr.	Mississippi State
ILB	Ray Lewis	6-1/221	Jr.	Miami
OLB	Simeon Rice	6-5/245	Sr.	Illinois
CB	Darrius Johnson	5-9/180	Sr.	Oklahoma
CB	Carlos Jones	5-11/173	Jr.	Miami
S	Jason Parker	6-0/188	Sr.	Tennessee
S	Brandon Sanders	5-10/170	Sr.	Arizona
P	John Stonehouse	5-11/210	Sr.	USC
RS	Eddie Kennison	6-0/187	Jr.	LSU

Colorado State and Arizona were the most interested, and they wanted him as a tailback. He was moved to defense after one season and won the Jim Thorpe Award (as the nation's best defensive back) in 1990.

•Defensive tackle Rob Waldrop. Like Evans and Wells, he was a lightly recruited Phoenix-area player. He became a two-time consensus All-America and 1993 winner of the Outland Trophy.

And then there is Bruschi.

"I think people will always consider me as an underdog because they believe what they see," he said. "And when they see Tedy Bruschi, they don't see a 6-foot-4, 280-pound defensive end. They see a 6-1 guy trying as hard as he can. But I've never

ering leaving school early, announcing he had asked an NFL committee to report on his probable draft status. After the game, he said he was just joking. Still, months later, some Arizona fans still hadn't heard. "Is Tedy coming back?" was a common refrain.

"I love playing college ball," he said.

After proving many college coaches wrong, Bruschi will face even harsher evaluation this time around from pro scouts. Some of the reviews will undoubtedly read: Too short, too small, can't play.

One scout for an NFL team said Bruschi's best position might be inside linebacker.

"I see myself playing in the NFL. I know I can do it," Bruschi said. "If they don't want me to play defensive end, that's fine. I'll play outside linebacker and rush the passer or cover the running back. If you're talking middle linebacker, then I don't know."

"I'll do whatever they want, but I'd say people are crazy not to let me rush the passer."

Bruschi usually does his thing while lined up to the strong side of the field, with no stratagems devised to compensate for his lack of size. "We're not really doing anything special (to get him in mismatches)," Toney said. "We're just playing our defense and he fits in well. One of the things that makes him effective is we have others in our defense who help."

Arizona entered 1994 with unprecedented expectations—including one No. 1 ranking in preseason predictions—but the Wildcats were not good front-runners, finishing 8-4 and beating only one team (Washington State) with a winning record.

The Wildcats lose six starters on defense, but with Bruschi and Sanders forming the nucleus of a new Desert Swarm, Arizona hopes its Rose Bowl window of opportunity is still open. Bruschi knows it won't be easy.

"Before, I was working my way up to the top, but now I'm there," he said. "Everyone wants a piece. It was easy getting to where I am; the real battle is staying here." ♦

Anthony Gimino covers Arizona football for the Arizona Daily Star.

Facing Arizona's sackmeister is sobering thought for opposition

Brigham Young was interested, the Cougars thought he lacked the size to play on the line. Toney's in-house visit then sealed the deal.

"Coach Toney came to my house and no other recruiter had done that. I was stunned," Bruschi said. "I asked, 'Does this mean I get a scholarship?'"

Absolutely. Some schools earn a reputation for churning out linebackers, others running backs or quarterbacks. Arizona is the home of the sleeper. To wit:

•Linebacker Byron Evans. He was offered scholarships from only New Mexico State and Arizona. He became the Pac-10's Defensive Player of the Year in 1986.

•Safety Chuck Cecil. He was invited to walk-on at Arizona after receiving no offers from the Pac-10. He became a consensus All-America in 1987.

•Defensive tackle Dana Wells. Arizona was the only Pac-10 school to offer a scholarship. He was the league's Defensive Player of the Year in 1988.

•Cornerback Darryll Lewis. Hawaii,

seen myself as an underdog.

"There is nothing better than when people doubt you and you are able to turn that around and say, 'Here, take this.' That's the best feeling in the world."

Bruschi never did get to play in that '91 opener against Ohio State. He missed the first three games of the season because of a pinched nerve but played in the next two before sustaining a thumb injury. He received a medical hardship, restoring his year of eligibility.

In the three years Bruschi has been playing full time, Arizona has averaged 4.2 sacks per game and allowed a paltry 49.2 rushing yards per contest. During that span, the Wildcats posted the Pac-10's best overall record (24-11-1) and top league mark (16-7-1), yet they have been stymied in their bid for a first Rose Bowl berth.

"Yeah, we've gotten our respect," Bruschi said. "We're up there and we want to rise higher. That's the challenge."

During preparations for last season's Freedom Bowl, Bruschi said he was consid-

The Sporting News

QUARTERBACKS

QUARTERBACK	HL/WL	Class	School
1. Danny Kanell	6-4/215	Sr	Florida State
2. Danny Wuerffel	6-2/212	Jr	Florida
3. Scott Milanovich	6-3/227	Sr	Maryland
4. Peyton Manning	6-5/202	Soph.	Tennessee
5. Steve Taneyhill	6-3/205	Sr	South Carolina
6. Max Knake	5-11/195	Jr	TCU
7. Mike Maxwell	6-4/200	Sr	Nevada
8. Key Deltmer	5-11/170	Jr	Colorado
9. Darrell Bevell	6-2/197	Sr	Wisconsin
10. Spence Fischer	6-3/220	Sr	Duke
11. Ron Powis	6-2/225	Soph	Notre Dame
12. Marcus Crandell	6-0/198	Jr	East Carolina
13. Dan White	6-5/215	Sr	Arizona
14. Jake Plummer	6-2/183	Jr	Arizona State
15. Henry Burris	6-1/175	Jr	Temple
16. Mark Hartsell	6-5/218	Jr	Boston College
17. Mike Groh	6-3/199	Sr	Virginia
18. Bobby Hoyng	6-4/223	Sr	Ohio State
19. Ryan Henry	6-0/195	Sr	Bowling Green
20. Pat Barnes	6-4/210	Jr	California

ALL-PURPOSE QB	HL/WL	Class	School
1. Tommie Frazier	6-2/205	Sr	Nebraska
2. Terry Harvey	6-1/190	Sr	North Carolina St.
3. Ramon Flanagan	6-2/175	Jr	SMU
4. Tony Banks	6-6/225	Sr	Michigan State
5. Ray Lucas	6-3/210	Sr	Rutgers
6. Johnny Johnson	6-1/208	Sr	Illinois
7. Don Shanklin	5-11/194	Jr	Oregon State
8. Jay McDonagh	6-0/193	Jr	W. Michigan
9. Beau Morgan	5-11/187	Jr	Air Force
10. Ryan Huzjak	6-2/193	Jr	Toledo

RUNNING BACKS

TAILBACK	HL/WL	Class	School
1. Stephen Davis	6-2/228	Sr	Auburn
2. Leeland McElroy	5-11/202	Jr	Texas A&M
3. Lawrence Phillips	6-0/215	Jr	Nebraska
4. Leon Johnson	6-1/208	Jr	North Carolina
5. Warrick Dunn	5-9/178	Jr	Florida State
6. Chris Dinkins	6-1/215	Sr	Minnesota
7. Billy West	5-10/195	Jr	Pitt
8. Andre Davis	5-9/185	Sr	TCU
9. Eddie George	6-3/227	Sr	Ohio State
10. Tremayne Stephens	5-11/194	Soph.	North Carolina St.
11. Terrell Willis	6-0/200	Jr	Rutgers
12. Toraino Singleton	6-3/230	Sr	UTEP
13. Randy Kinder	6-1/210	Jr	Notre Dame
14. Sharmon Shah	5-11/189	Jr	UCLA
15. Alex Smith	6-0/202	Soph.	Indiana
16. Tim Blakabutuka	6-1/205	Jr	Michigan
17. Mike Archie	5-8/202	Sr	Penn State
18. Byron Hanspard	6-0/180	Soph	Texas Tech
19. Andre Richardson	5-9/175	Soph.	Oklahoma State
20. Jerard Moore	5-10/226	Jr	Oklahoma

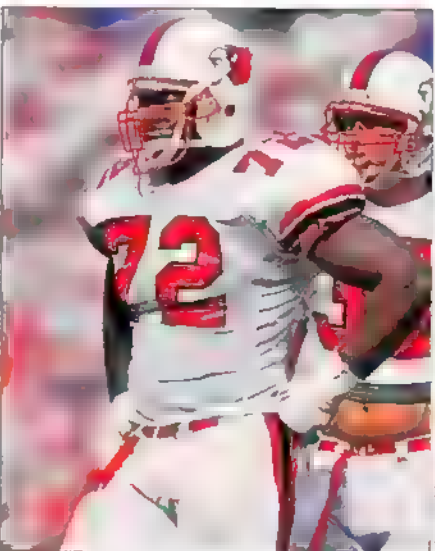
FULLBACK	HL/WL	Class	School
1. Mike Altott	6-1/241	Sr	Purdue
2. Scott Greene	5-11/227	Sr	Michigan State
3. Stanley Pritchett	6-1/230	Sr	South Carolina
4. Hema Heimuli	6-2/210	Sr	BYU
5. Dou Innocent	6-1/210	Sr	Mississippi
6. Marc Edwards	6-0/223	Jr	Notre Dame
7. J.D. Stewart	6-1/219	Sr	Oregon State
8. Kantroy Barber	6-3/245	Sr	West Virginia
9. Raymond Priestler	6-1/210	Soph.	Clemson
10. Akili King	5-11/230	Sr	Army



Florida quarterback Danny Wuerffel



Rutgers tight end Marco Battaglia



Louisville offensive tackle Roman Oben

RECEIVERS

WIDE RECEIVER	HL/WL	Class	School
1. Keyshawn Johnson	6-4/205	Sr	JSC
2. Bobby Engram	5-10/185	Sr	Penn State
3. Aman Toomer	6-4/194	Sr	Michigan
4. Demick Mayes	6-1/221	Sr	Notre Dame
5. Marcus Hams	6-2/207	Jr	Wyoming
6. Mike Adams	6-1/182	Jr	Texas
7. Eric Moulds	6-3/205	Sr	Mississippi State
8. Charlie Jones	5-10/170	Sr	Fresno State
9. Freddie Scott	6-0/186	Jr	Penn State
10. Kevin Jordan	6-2/188	Sr	UCLA
11. Alex Van Dyke	6-1/195	Sr	Nevada
12. Jermaine Lewis	5-8/172	Sr	Maryland
13. Bruce Hunter	6-0/197	Sr	Georgia
14. Redel Anthony	6-0/176	Soph.	Florida
15. Kevin Lockett	6-0/175	Jr	Kansas State
16. Richard Dice	6-3/220	Jr	Arizona
17. Stephen Williams	6-2/170	Sr	NE Louisiana
18. Reggie Barlow	6-0/188	Sr	Alabama State
19. Marvin Hanson	6-1/173	Sr	Syracuse
20. Wirt Blackwell	6-0/180	Soph.	San Diego State

TIGHT END	HL/WL	Class	School
1. Brian Collins	6-5/226	Sr	TCU
2. Marco Battaglia	6-3/240	Sr	Rutgers
3. Stephen Alexander	6-5/224	Soph.	Oklahoma
4. Bill Khayat	6-4/225	Sr	Duke
5. Josh Wilcox	6-2/238	Jr	Oregon
6. Henry Lusk	6-1/232	Sr	Utah
7. Chad Lewis	6-6/235	Jr	BYU
8. David LaFleur	6-7/268	Jr	LSU
9. Matt Lapsis	6-5/250	Jr	Colorado
10. Lovett Purnell	6-3/235	Sr	West Virginia

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

CENTER	HL/WL	Class	School
1. Clay Shiver	6-2/280	Sr	Florida State
2. K.C. Jones	6-2/257	Jr	Miami
3. Bryan Stollenberg	6-2/265	Sr	Colorado
4. Shannon Roubique	6-1/275	Sr	Auburn
5. Brian Anderson	6-5/278	Sr	Mississippi State
6. Mike Flanagan	6-5/261	Sr	UCLA
7. Bubba Miller	6-1/285	Sr	Tennessee
8. David Milwee	6-3/275	Sr	Tulsa
9. Aaron Graham	6-4/280	Sr	Nebraska
10. Dusty Ziegler		Jr	Notre Dame

GUARD	HL/WL	Class	School
1. Jeff Hartings	6-3/278	Sr	Penn State
2. Chris Naeoe	6-4/280	Jr	Colorado
3. Jeff Smith	6-3/304	Sr	Tennessee
4. Calvin Collins	6-3/285	Jr	Texas A&M
5. Joe Mangano	6-4/290	Sr	Michigan
6. Marco Rivera	6-5/280	Sr	Penn State
7. Heath Irwin	6-5/280	Sr	Colorado
8. Brad Badger	6-4/270	Jr	Stanford
9. Lewis Tyre	6-5/272	Sr	Florida State
10. Dan Neil	6-2/282	Jr	Texas

TACKLE	HL/WL	Class	School
1. Jonathan Ogden	6-8/315	Sr	UCLA
2. Orlando Pace	6-5/320	Soph.	Ohio State
3. Roman Oben	6-5/290	Sr	Louisville
4. Jason Odom	6-5/297	Sr	Florida
5. Willie Anderson	6-6/306	Jr	Auburn
6. Pete Kendall	6-5/287	Sr	Boston College
7. Jason Layman	6-6/287	Sr	Tennessee
8. Jimmy Hemdon	6-8/280	Sr	Houston
9. Jon Runyan	6-8/299	Jr	Michigan
10. Jerry Wunsch	6-6/315	Jr	Wisconsin

ALL-AMERICA RANKINGS

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

END	Ht./Wt.	Class	School
1 Tedy Bruschi	6-1/253	Sr	Arizona
2 Brandon Mitchell	6-4/270	Jr.	Texas A&M
3 Mike Vrabel	6-4/260	Jr.	Ohio State
4 Regan Upshaw	6-4/245	Jr	California
5 Cedric Jones	6-4/267	Sr.	Oklahoma
6 Gabe Northern	6-3/235	Sr	LSU
7 Matt Finkes	6-2/258	Jr.	Ohio State
8 Kenard Lang	6-4/251	Soph	Miami
9 Tony Brackens	6-4/240	Jr.	Texas
10 Mark Campbell	6-3/287	Sr.	Florida
11 Cornell Brown	6-2/240	Jr.	Virginia Tech
12 Sean Moran	6-3/254	Sr.	Colorado State
13 Nyia Wren	6-1/245	Sr.	Kansas State
14 Troy Bailey	6-3/270	Sr	Oregon
15 Jevon Langford	6-5/260	Jr.	Oklahoma State
16 Dwayne Sanders	6-7/255	Sr.	Washington St.
17 Todd Atkins	6-3/247	Sr.	Penn State
18 Marvin Cross	6-4/253	Sr.	Clemson

TACKLE	Ht./Wt.	Class	School
1 Marcus Jones	6-6/278	Sr.	North Carolina
2 Tim Coiston	6-1/275	Sr.	Kansas State
3 Shannon Brown	6-5/266	Sr.	Alabama
4 Tim Morabito	6-3/263	Sr.	Boston College
5 Jason Horn	6-5/277	Sr.	Michigan
6 Chuck Osborne	6-2/280	Sr.	Arizona
7 Kerry Hicks	6-6/260	Sr.	Colorado
8 La'Roi Glover	6-2/275	Sr.	San Diego State
9 Trent Zankewicz	6-6/270	Sr.	Michigan
10 Steve Hoffmann	6-6/260	Sr.	Washington
11 Matt Keneely	6-5/285	Jr.	USC
12 Dion Powell	6-4/268	Sr.	W. Michigan

LINEBACKERS

OUTSIDE	Ht./Wt.	Class	School
1 Simeon Rice	6-5/243	Sr.	Illinois
2 Donnie Edwards	6-3/216	Sr.	UCLA
3 Kevin Hardy	6-4/240	Sr.	Illinois
4 Ben Hanks	6-2/224	Sr.	Florida
5 Greg Jones	6-4/230	Jr.	Colorado
6 Marcellus Mostella	6-3/228	Jr.	Auburn
7 Reggie Brown	6-2/224	Sr.	Texas A&M
8 Ralph Stalen	6-3/200	Jr.	Alabama
9 Todd Rebol	6-0/215	Sr.	Florida State
10 Lance Johnstone	6-3/242	Sr.	Temple
11 Chris Hayes	6-0/202	Sr.	Washington St.
12 Jamie Sharper	6-3/229	Jr.	Virginia

INSIDE	Ht./Wt.	Class	School
1 Ray Lewis	6-1/221	Jr.	Miami
2 Dwayne Curry	6-3/248	Jr.	Mississippi State
3 Randall Godfrey	6-3/250	Sr.	Georgia
4 Matt Russell	6-2/235	Jr.	Colorado
5 Ink Aleaga	6-2/225	Jr.	Washington
6 Zach Thomas	6-0/233	Sr	Texas Tech
7 Daryl Bush	6-2/230	Soph.	Florida State
8 Dexter Daniels	6-2/240	Sr.	Florida
9 Jeremy Asher	6-2/224	Sr.	Oregon
10 Tom Tumulty	6-4/240	Sr.	Pitt
11 Leon Jones	6-0/222	Sr.	Youngstown St.
12 Mark Ubiano	6-3/235	Sr.	East Carolina
13 Tyrus McCloud	6-2/237	Jr.	Louisville
14 Anthony Hams	6-2/233	Sr.	Auburn
15 Pete Monty	6-2/231	Jr.	Wisconsin
16 Tyrell Peters	6-1/218	Jr.	Oklahoma
17 Jarrett Irons	6-1/231	Jr.	Michigan
18 Vincent Landrum	6-2/235	Sr.	McNeese State



Oklahoma defensive end Cedric Jones



Washington linebacker Ink Aleaga



Colorado State safety Greg Myers

DEFENSIVE BACKS

CORNERBACK	Ht./Wt.	Class	School
1 Carlos Jones	5-11/173	Jr.	Miami
2 Darius Johnson	5-9/180	Sr.	Oklahoma
3 Ray Mickens	5-8/172	Sr.	Texas A&M
4 Ronde Barber	5-10/169	Soph.	Virginia
5 Deshea Townsend	5-10/170	Soph.	Alabama
6 Alex Morden	5-10/185	Sr.	Oregon
7 Ricky Bell	5-10/193	Jr.	North Carolina St.
8 Joe Gordon	5-9/175	Jr.	Kansas State
9 Demetrice Martin	5-9/180	Sr	Michigan State
10 Aaron Beasley	6-0/190	Sr.	West Virginia
11 Brian Miller	5-9/178	Jr.	Penn State
12 Dexter McCleon	5-11/190	Jr.	Clemson
13 Greg Burns	5-10/175	Sr.	Washington St.
14 Rashid Gayle	5-8/180	Sr.	Boise State
15 Tyrone Williams	6-0/185	Sr.	Nebraska

SAFETY	Ht./Wt.	Class	School
1 Brandon Sanders	5-10/177	Sr.	Arizona
2 Jason Parker	6-0/188	Sr.	Tennessee
3 Lawyer Milloy	6-2/200	Jr.	Washington
4 James Walker	6-3/203	Sr.	North Carolina St.
5 Greg Myers	6-2/193	Sr.	Colorado State
6 Ray Farmer	6-4/220	Sr.	Duke
7 Toman Gray	6-0/192	Jr.	Virginia Tech
8 Sean Hamlet	6-0/218	Jr.	Florida State
9 Walt Hams	6-1/187	Sr.	Mississippi State
10 Antwone Patton	5-11/197	Sr	Illinois
11 Brian Dawkins	6-0/190	Sr	Clemson
12 Marcus Coleman	6-2/201	Sr.	Texas Tech
13 Reggie Tongue	6-0/194	Sr.	Oregon State
14 William Bennett	6-1/190	Sr.	Northwestern
15 Ricky Parker	6-1/190	Jr.	San Diego State

SPECIAL TEAMS

KICKER	Ht./Wt.	Class	School
1 Michael Proctor	5-11/183	Sr	Alabama
2 Remy Hamilton	6-0/196	Jr.	Michigan
3 Phil Dawson	5-11/191	Soph.	Texas
4 Dane Prewitt	5-11/211	Sr.	Miami
5 Kyle Bryant	5-7/180	Soph.	Texas A&M
6 Rafael Garcia	5-10/194	Jr.	Virginia
7 Brett Conway	6-2/188	Jr.	Penn State
8 Mike Chalberg	5-11/170	Sr.	Minnesota
9 Jim Richter	6-4/205	Sr	Furman
10 Kanon Parkman	5-11/171	Sr.	Georgia

PUNTER	Ht./Wt.	Class	School
1 John Stonehouse	5-11/210	Sr.	USC
2 Paul Burton	5-11/185	Jr.	Northwestern
3 Brad Maynard	6-1/175	Jr.	Ball State
4 Greg Ivy	6-0/190	Sr.	Oklahoma State
5 Marc Hams	5-11/198	Jr.	Iowa State
6 Sean Reali	5-11/194	Jr.	Syracuse
7 Will Bnce	6-5/202	Jr.	Virginia
8 Brian Gragert	6-1/228	Sr.	Wyoming
9 Mark DeLozier	6-1/208	Sr	Tulsa
10 Bill Marinangel	6-2/218	Jr.	Vanderbilt

RETURNER	Ht./Wt.	Class	School
1 Eddie Kennison	6-0/184	Jr.	LSU
2 Leeland McElroy	5-11/202	Jr.	Texas A&M
3 Marcus Wall	5-10/165	Sr.	North Carolina
4 Nilo Silvan	5-10/176	Sr.	Tennessee
5 Demck Mason	5-11/185	Jr.	Michigan State
6 Steve Clay	5-5/155	Sr.	Eastern Michigan
7 Greg Myers	6-2/193	Sr.	Colorado State
8 Eric Moulds	6-3/205	Sr.	Mississippi State
9 Jim Turner	6-4/212	Soph.	Syracuse
10 Kio Sanford	5-11/164	Soph.	Kentucky

ONE TOUGH BIRD

Jeremy Asher's job is to get to the ball and the inside linebacker doesn't disappoint. Asher and "Gang Green" have revived Oregon football.

*High-flying
Jeremy Asher
helps Oregon
shed image
of sitting ducks*

By PAUL BUKER

Call him sentimental, but Oregon inside linebacker Jeremy Asher just can't bring himself to get rid of that old '86 Honda Accord parked in the street outside his Eugene, Ore., apartment.

True, it was the Ducks' "Gang Green" defense that got the school into the Rose Bowl for the first time in 37 years last season, but technically the 'ol Honda got Asher and roommate Rich Ruhl to Pasadena.

Well, close to Pasadena.

"We got up at 10 a.m. Christmas morning," Asher recalled. "I'd spent \$200 on the thing, getting it tuned up. The NCAA lets you keep the difference if you don't want to fly to the game, and we needed the money.

"We had to be at the Doubletree Hotel by 2 p.m. the next day, or the coaches told us something drastic would happen."

Something drastic did. About 14 hours into the roughly 16-hour trip, Asher's car died on Interstate-5 about 30 miles outside of Bakersfield.

Asher and Ruhl, Oregon's other starting inside linebacker, limped into an all-night Chevron station. "Coach is going to kill us," Asher remembers thinking.

The two players fashioned a crude sign out of a paper bag and marking pen with the word PASADENA on it. They were going to thumb it.

But 1994 was a year many things worked out magically for Oregon football. A sympathetic station attendant drove Asher and Ruhl to Bakersfield, where they rented a car and made it to roll call with two hours to spare.

Did Penn State have to go through this?

"Builds character," Asher said.

With his car stranded 120 miles away, Asher had enough character to swarm around for 11 tackles against the second-ranked Nittany Lions who beat Oregon, 38-20. Despite the loss, Gang Green got its licks in against All-America tailback Ki-Jana Carter, who rushed for 156 yards.

"Those guys, they hit hard," Carter said after being named Rose Bowl co-MVP with Oregon quarterback Danny O'Neil.

Carter landed an early haymaker that stunned the Ducks, going 83 yards on the first play of the game after catching Oregon in a blitz. Asher's team trailed, 7-0, only 13



OTTO GRECK/USA SPORT

seconds into the game. What were his parents thinking? What was the world thinking?

Right. This could get ugly.

"Not exactly what we had in mind," Asher said, whose team took the mandatory eight-count, then regrouped, tying the score early in the second half before Penn State pulled away.

"As the game wore on, we held up pretty well," he said.

At 6-foot-2 and 224 pounds, Asher is known for his aggressiveness and quickness to the ball. He gets so wound up before the kickoff, in fact, that position coach Bill Tarrow attempts to calm him down.

"I tell him to relax out there," Tarrow said. "He wants to be great, and sometimes he tries too hard."

Penn State tried to keep Asher from getting into the flow.

"They ran a lot of misdirection, counters and quick traps to try and mess up our blitzes," Asher said. "And they did catch us a couple times."

The linebacker's critique of himself? "There was some good and there was some bad. I don't think I read the trap very well."

Asher said he felt privileged to be part of the first Oregon team to go to the Rose Bowl since 1958 and won't ever forget the excitement the Ducks created in their five-game march to the Pac-10 championship, which began with a 31-20 upset of Washington on October 22.

"The Rose Bowl is something I'll always have to remember," said Asher, a native of Medford, Ore. "We had a great time. All of us. But to tell you the truth, I think we can get back there. We've been pretty quiet about announcing that as our goal because we don't want to put those kinds of expectations on ourselves."

"I hope our fans feel the same way (about going back). It's what I came here to play for, to play at that kind of level, to play in those type of games. There's no rush in the world like coming out of that tunnel and seeing 100,000 fans."

Asher's performance in the Rose Bowl capped a superb junior season. Blessed with terrific speed for someone his size, he was a key part of a blitzing, stunting defense that stunned traditional Pac-10 powers. Former Oregon defensive coordinator Nick Aliotti came up with the Gang Green nickname in the off-season and had T-shirts printed that said "GANG GREEN: A PAINFUL EXPERIENCE."

Asher said his teammates liked the Gang Green idea but weren't sure they should go public with it until the team had played a few games. Indeed, then-coach Rich Brooks, who later would become coach of the NFL's Rams, told Aliotti to hold off on the shirts "until we play well enough to deserve a nickname."

After Oregon was beaten by Hawaii (36-16) and Utah (34-16) on successive weekends early in the season, Duckmania remained in the closet. Asher didn't have the guts to let anybody see the shirts, and Tarrow put out a 911 call for help at inside linebacker.

"That week, Coach Tarrow really stressed that we needed to be in the right spots, in

our gaps, taking care of our responsibilities," Asher said.

"We started to have a little more confidence in each other, and the people around us. I mean, last year (1993) we had more talent, to be honest. But (Gang Green) played as a team. We were there for each other. And it made a big difference."

After Oregon stuffed Iowa (40-18) and rocked USC (22-7)—winning at the L.A. Coliseum for the first time since the days of Dan Fouts—Asher was ready to let the folks of Eugene know all about Gang Green.

"Our inside guys, from the USC game on, played pretty damn good," Tarrow said, noting the chemistry that developed between Asher and Ruhl, best friends who were rivals in high school.

Ruhl is the "mike" linebacker on the tight end side, while Asher's job is to fly to the ball. They combined to make 194 tackles last season as the Ducks finished fourth in total defense in a conference that featured Washington State's "Palouse Posse" and Arizona's "Desert Swarm."

In preparation for what should be a stellar senior season, Asher has studied film of California linebacker Jerrott Willard, who was an all-league pick. Willard, however, won't be the only familiar face missing from Pac-10 competition.

"It's going to be weird, not having Coach Brooks around," Asher said. During the off-season, Brooks, Aliotti, wide receivers coach John Ramsdell and offensive line/tight end coach Steve Greatwood moved on to the Rams. Mike Bellotti, Oregon's offensive coordinator since 1989, takes over for Brooks.

The new defensive coordinator, former Denver Broncos defensive coordinator Charlie Waters, hasn't been involved with a college program since 1969, when he played at Clemson.

"There was some anxiety at first. I was kind of upset," Asher said. "I understand Coach Brooks' position, but I wanted to finish my career with him."

Asher doesn't expect major differences between Gang Green I and II. The Ducks will play the same gambling style and dare offenses to try to beat their excellent one-on-one cover men in the secondary.

"With the amount of seniors we have on defense, it would be pretty ridiculous to change anything," Asher said. "Especially now, because what we have is working."

Asher isn't sure if he'll be a marked man in 1995. He isn't sure, and doesn't really care. "I just know it's going to be exciting," he said. "Personally, I want to have a better year than I had last year, and I think I can. I've got a lot of things I can improve on."

Asher had arthroscopic surgery on his

knee after the season and couldn't work out full-bore until spring. He wants his final year at Oregon to be a smashing success. Then he'll worry about the National Football League.

"You've got to be pretty good to make it to the next level, and I know I'm not there yet," he said.

When the Ducks clinched the Pac-10 championship last fall, a number of players got tattoos to celebrate the special occasion. But Asher wasn't about to get something crazy put on his chest or his arm. No, his Rose Bowl tattoo is on his ankle, of all places.

But that's typical. Asher doesn't try to draw attention to himself, although he's a sitting duck driving around campus in that '86 Accord, which is alive and well

LOOK AT ME, LOOK AT ME!

Here are players who, while well-known in their region, may be a bit underrated nationally:

Player	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	School
William Bennett	FS	6-1/190	Sr.	Northwestern
Chris Cooley	G	6-5/290	Sr.	Rice
Morris Foreman	OLB	6-1/224	Sr.	East Carolina
Sam Games	SS	6-3/205	Jr.	Cincinnati
Mike Groh	QB	6-3/199	Sr.	Virginia
Keno Hills	OT	6-6/302	Sr.	SW Louisiana
LeRon Hudgins	SS	6-1/205	Sr.	Air Force
Jon Krick	DT	6-2/287	Sr.	Purdue
J.J. Meadors	WR	5-6/153	Sr.	Arkansas
Fred Miller	OT	6-7/294	Sr.	Baylor
Dion Powell	DT	6-1/265	Sr.	Western Michigan
Reggie Reser	CB	5-10/180	Sr.	Washington
Kane Rogers	LB	6-0/229	Sr.	Oregon State
Tim Sanders	LB	6-0/204	Jr.	Iowa State
John Summerday	G	6-2/288	Sr.	Temple
Brandon Turner	C	6-3/292	Jr.	New Mexico
Iheanyi Uwaezuoke	WR	6-2/195	Sr.	California
John Walters	LB	6-2/225	Sr.	Alabama
Ronnie Ward	LB	6-0/220	Sr.	Kansas
Quincy Wright	FS	6-1/190	Jr.	Central Michigan

after being rescued from Bakersfield. One day last spring, Asher was running late for an interview and a session in the weight room. The Honda was giving him trouble. Again.

"Carburetor went out," he explained.

But don't ask Asher to get rid of the car. He may need it if Oregon pulls off another miracle. ♦

Paul Buker covers Oregon and college sports for The Oregonian in Portland.

HIPPO BALLERINAS

By MICHAEL BRADLEY

Once Penn State offensive coordinator Fran Ganter got past those bright San Francisco 49ers uniforms, he discovered some striking similarities between the Super Bowl champions' offense and that of his vanilla-clad Nittany Lions. While perusing some videotape in February—as a football coach is wont to do in the off-season—Ganter kept focusing on the multiple responsibilities of both teams' offensive lines.

Instead of merely lining up the five biggest backsides they could find and sending them straight ahead like some flesh-and-blood avalanche, the 49ers and Nittany Lions required their linemen to execute a game-long array of pulls and traps that demanded far more athletic ability than the current zone-blocking craze. "They're very similar to us," Ganter said. "They ask their linemen to do a lot of things. They're sound, smart and strong."

And successful. In 1994, San Francisco and Penn State may have had the most prolific offenses in the history of their respective football domains. Each team unleashed a season-long assault on the end zone that confounded opposing defenses and led to significant rewriting of the record books. The 49ers' blistering attack helped yield a record fifth Super Bowl title, while the Lions' offense was instrumental in a 12-0 season (including a Rose Bowl victory) that also resulted in a little index-finger waving, no matter what the polls said.

Penn State averaged a remarkable 47.8 points and 520.2 yards per game last year, ranking first in the nation in both categories, and topped the 50-point plateau five times. The Lions' offensive line allowed just three sacks all year and gave Coach Joe Paterno the confidence to open up the passing attack—quite an accomplishment, given Paterno's conservative nature.

As is the case with most formidable offenses, the scoring orgies produced little recognition for the team's offensive linemen. Most fans and media follow the ball throughout a game, uninterested in the human quagmire up front. But those who bothered to watch Penn State's offensive linemen during '94 witnessed one of the most dominant displays of trench warfare in college history. Since four of the linemen return for the 1995 season, there is ample opportunity to appreciate them again. Just watch the guards when the ball is snapped

and enjoy.

The Lions were a bit of an anomaly last year, particularly in the Big Ten Conference, where giant, corn-fed types tend to graze on defenders in straight lines. By the end of the '94 season, Ohio State was employing a "tackles over" formation that featured the elephantine tandem of Corey Stringer and Orlando Pace in a 630-pound human eclipse. Just finding the Buckeyes backs behind those two was tough enough, much less tackling them. Penn State, on the other hand, employed a curious blend of finesse and power along the offensive front.

The '94 Lions were big, to be sure—Penn State's line averaged nearly 285 pounds,

*When it comes
to measuring
and comparing
offensive lines,
Penn State's
nimble unit
appears to be
different animal*

with the '95 version a few cheeseburgers heavier—but they were athletic, too. The ground didn't shake when they broke the huddle and headed out for work. And once they were set in motion, the linemen were nimble creatures, resembling more the hippo ballerinas in *Fantasia* than the Brobdingnagian brutes in *Gulliver's Travels*. The recent fascination with lines full of 300-pounders bulldozing ahead in unsophisticated area blocking schemes deviates from Penn State's assembly-line style, which succeeds only when its myriad parts are firing in sync.

"We have not gone out to get giant kids," Ganter said. "We look for guys with growth potential who will be hard workers in the weight room. We'd love to have a 320-pounder who can do all the things we ask,

but they're hard to find.

"We're more concerned with strength, intelligence and movement. If we can get those three things in a kid, we're going to get a good lineman."

This year, Penn State has five such linemen. Senior guards Marco Rivera and Jeff Hartings are All-America candidates, while senior tackles Andre Johnson and Keith Conlin should receive mention on most All-Big Ten ballots. Together with junior center Barry Tielsch, who steps in for Bucky Greeley (a Big Ten second-teamer), they should form a unit that helps ease new starters like quarterback Wally Richardson and running backs Stephen Pitts and Mike Archie into the Lions' lineup. They'll do it with outstanding execution of a complicated strategy that requires substantial experience and dedication.

"We didn't just have five 310-pounders coming off the ball with a back bouncing it off of them," said longtime Penn State assistant Craig Cirbus, who has given up his offensive line duties to become the University of Buffalo's coach. "Penn State uses a lot of pulling and combination blocks, the kinds of things you might have seen on a team in the 1940s and '50s."

While such blocking schemes contributed to countless trips to the end zone last season and enough offensive highlights to warrant a Ken Burns-style documentary, one dramatic drive stands out. In the gathering gloom of a raw November day in Champaign, Ill., Penn State capped an extraordinary 21-point comeback with a 96-yard, fourth-quarter march against Illinois that kept the Lions unbeaten. When fullback Brian Milne barged into the end zone from two yards away with 57 seconds left, the Lions had secured a chilling 35-31 triumph over the Fighting Illini and earned a Rose Bowl berth. Without question, the drive—coming against the nation's No. 2 team in scoring defense—was definitive evidence of the offensive line's dominance.

"That's what a championship team does," Cirbus said of the Nittany Lions, who will take a 17-game winning streak (including bowls) into the '95 season. "Anything less than a championship team would have jumped offside, missed an assignment or a call."

The Lions' front was perfect during the methodical march, opening holes for the running backs and keeping the Illini away from quarterback Kerry Collins. Once

Penn State started rolling, it appeared the end zone was the inevitable destination.

"We thought the whole year that we could handle anything that came our way," Johnson said. "That game, the chips were down, and we knew we had it in us to get it done. All year long, we had been preparing for that. Our coaches had put us in the worst situations possible during practice just to get us ready."

Ganter and Cirbus agree that the offensive line's collective work ethic is responsible for much of its success. The individual parts of the group may have tremendous talent, but their commitment to the whole is what makes them great. Penn State's scheme does not keep its guards and tackles on the same side of the ball for every play. Hartings and Conlin always will line up on the strong (or tight end) side, while Rivera and Johnson play on the short side of the field. The tandems will orbit Tielsch this season, switching according to the demands of the play. By doing this, Penn State takes advantage of the players' individual strengths.

Hartings, for example, is an excellent pulling guard. He leads most of the Lions' sweeps and can cover substantial ground after the snap. Johnson excels in pass pro-

athletic, well-coached and very good."

How good? The performance against the Buckeyes gave Hartings a clue.

"It didn't hit me until after the game," Hartings said. "I'm from Ohio, and I never thought we could do something like that to Ohio State. We could do whatever we wanted to. I was shocked during the game. A couple weeks later, Ohio State's defense was dominating teams and it hit me, 'Maybe we are that good.'"

Penn State's flopping of the line may create specialists of a sort within a five-man unit, but it isn't done to hide or protect anyone. Hartings and Rivera are excellent run blockers and pass protectors, and Penn State coaches aren't afraid to challenge them with demanding pulls into open areas or downfield assignments. The two lined up next to each other during 1993 when Rivera was a tackle, and they executed the Lions' trademark double-team blocks with considerable success.

"Our philosophy is to chase the ball,"

UNIT RANKINGS

BACKFIELD

1. Florida State
2. Nebraska
3. Penn State
4. Oregon State
5. Auburn

OFFENSIVE LINE

1. Penn State
2. Auburn
3. UCLA
4. Tennessee
5. Michigan

RECEIVERS

1. Florida
2. Penn State
3. Michigan
4. Fresno State
5. Maryland

DEFENSIVE LINE

1. Alabama
2. Ohio State
3. California
4. Arizona
5. Boston College

LINEBACKERS

1. Florida State
2. Auburn
3. Oregon
4. Illinois
5. Miami

SECONDARY

1. Kansas State
2. Virginia Tech
3. Texas A&M
4. Tennessee
5. West Virginia

back's blind side with no tight end support) and somewhat stronger on the run. The 295 pounds that Johnson carries appear spread out on his 6-foot-5 frame, and Cirbus could see him adding more weight without sacrificing quickness. Conlin might be the best athlete of the group, even at 6-7, 301. Opposing cornerbacks have had the distinct displeasure of trying to avoid Conlin when he heads out to the sideline to lead the occasional wide receiver screen.

"A lot of teams use linemen for screens," Hartings pointed out, "but I don't think any of them make them go 30 yards to the sideline to block a cornerback on a wide receiver screen."

This year's X factor is Tielsch, who started against Indiana and Illinois in '93 when Greeley sustained a concussion. Although he lacks the game experience of Greeley, whom Cirbus considers one of the greatest leaders and hardest workers in recent Penn State history, Tielsch might be able to compensate with his athletic ability—which probably is a bit superior to Greeley's. Tielsch's calm demeanor is perfect for a center, who must be a little less excitable than his line mates.

The combination again should trigger a hugely successful offense, even with the new faces in key skill positions. In fact, the Lions' line may be even more integral this season, since Penn State could revert somewhat to its time-honored, grind-it-out philosophy until Richardson becomes more comfortable throwing the ball. That's fine with the front five.

"We're going to set the tone this year," Johnson said. "We've been playing together for a while, so it's our turn to be the leaders."

Besides, there's a little unfinished business to pursue—a national title. With Collins, Carter and other key players gone, it will be an uphill fight. But don't tell that to Hartings.

"This year could have been a letdown if we had won it (in '94), but now I have an empty feeling," Hartings said of the Lions' runner-up finish to Nebraska in last season's final polls. "The seniors want to win 29 in a row (dating to November 1993)."

Such a winning streak would mean a second consecutive 12-0 record for Penn State, a real chance at the national crown and, just maybe, big-time recognition for the Nittany Lions' daunting shakers and movers up front. ♦

Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer based in Philadelphia.



TODD PERSHALL/SPORT

Marco Rivera (number 54) and Andre Johnson (68) possess the attributes of strength, intelligence and movement that help set the Nittany Lions' line apart. Penn State excels as a pulling and trapping team.

tection and often must square off against opponents' best rushers "on space," or with no outside blocking support. The concept is nothing new—"We haven't changed in 25 years," Cirbus said—but it does allow the Penn State linemen to develop specialties they can rehearse ad nauseam.

The effect isn't lost on opposing coaches, like Ohio State's John Cooper, who spent three hours last October trying to contain a Penn State team that seemed on the edge of offensive perfection in a 63-14 rout of the Buckeyes. Cooper was impressed with both the Penn State linemen's skills and the scheme in which they operated.

"They don't ask them to do what they can't do," Cooper said. "But they are very

Hartings said. "We waste a lot of energy doing that, so that's why we have to be in such good shape. Ki-Jana (Carter) had two, three or four touchdowns last year because we were downfield blocking for him. On some plays, we block two or three guys."

Some Penn State coaches compare Hartings favorably to former Lions standouts such as Sean Farrell and Mike Munchak. Cirbus lauds Hartings' discipline and commitment, and he doesn't hold back on Rivera, whose enthusiasm helps lighten an otherwise stoic group.

Johnson and Conlin are somewhat similar, too, although Johnson probably is a little quicker as a pass protector (he enjoys the challenge of protecting the quarter-

By CHRIS TOMASSON

All season, South Carolina quarterback Steve Taneyhill had been Mr. Starched Shirt. The long hair was gone. The celebratory antics had been toned down.

But this was too good of a moment to let pass. The seconds were ticking down in South Carolina's 33-7 victory at archrival Clemson last November, a victory that would clinch the Gamecocks' first bowl bid since the 1988 season.

Taneyhill walked to Clemson's sacred Tiger Paw painted in the middle of the field, where he wiped his feet as if it were a floor mat. Then Taneyhill threw one hand out to the Clemson crowd and held his other hand to his ear.

The old Taneyhill was back, but for just a brief period. Several weeks later, the new Taneyhill steered the Gamecocks to a 24-21 victory over West Virginia in the Carquest Bowl.

The game epitomized the image Taneyhill now wants to present. In the second quarter, he sacrificed his body by diving into the end zone for a four-yard touchdown. Throughout the game, he carefully picked apart the Mountaineers' secondary, not throwing into crowds like he once did.

Most important, Taneyhill was part of a team effort that gave the Gamecocks their first bowl victory in the school's 102 seasons of football.

"Steve has become more of a team player," South Carolina running back Stanley Pritchett said. "When he first came here, he was talking about how he was the best in everything. But now, instead of 'I,' he talks about 'we'."

Senior linebacker Hank Campbell agrees.

"When (Taneyhill) was a freshman, he was brash, but he's calmed down a lot since then," Campbell said. "When he came in as a freshman and won five games, he was looked at like the second coming of Christ. Then before his sophomore year people expected him to do things that he wasn't able to do. He was put on a pedestal, but he's come back from his low points well. He reevaluated himself and committed himself more to the team, and he's become a better player because of it."

As Taneyhill enters his senior season, the expectations in Columbia, S.C., are extremely high. There is talk of a major bowl bid—which would be the school's first—in Coach Brad Scott's

THE LONG

second season. There is talk of individual honors for Taneyhill. There also is talk about Taneyhill's future.

"I think he has the potential to be a pro," said South Carolina quarterback coach John Reaves, who came from Florida after last season to help with the Gamecocks' passing game. "He's well-versed in several different schemes, including the shotgun. Obviously, he has the skills and tools. He has a good arm. Mainly, he needs to be disciplined and motivated to study the game."

Taneyhill says having an NFL veteran such as Reaves on hand to give him pointers will help his pro aspirations.

"I definitely want to play in the NFL. With Coach Scott and Coach Reaves now here, the coaches are going to push me every day and I'm not going to slip up," he said. "I have to work on my quickness, keep throwing touchdowns and avoid interceptions. And, if the team wins, I'll be noticed."

This is hardly the first time South Carolina fans have been buzzing in the pre-



No-nonsense Coach Brad Scott (right) gets much of the credit for the turnaround of South Carolina quarterback Steve Taneyhill, who not long ago was known primarily for his long hair and flamboyance. Scott hasn't badgered Taneyhill into conforming, but he has gotten his message across. Taneyhill's long strands and me-first attitude are now history.

AND SHORT OF IT

season about Taneyhill. In 1993, the talk was about how a long-haired, brash quarterback was going to lead their beloved Gamecocks to the promised land.

Taneyhill (6-foot-3, 205 pounds) had come in as a cocky freshman in 1992. He predicted that as soon as he took over as the starting quarterback the Gamecocks would win—and he was right.

South Carolina started 0-5 and a player revolt threatened to tear the team apart. With nothing to lose, then-coach Sparky Woods turned to Taneyhill. The results were astounding. The Gamecocks won five of their final six games as Taneyhill threw for 1,272 yards and seven touchdowns. The wins were punctuated with Taneyhill's unique bravado. In the season finale, the Gamecocks upset Clemson in a game that featured Taneyhill making a mock home-run swing after a touchdown pass and signing his name on the Tiger

As Gamecocks' Steve Taneyhill matures, QB finds he gets in the hair of opponents (and not staff, teammates)

Paw after the game.

Taneyhill spent the off-season basking in publicity. Merchants sold Gamecocks caps with long ponytails attached. In the summer before the 1993 season, phone messages from national sportswriters and broadcasters piled up at the Taneyhill home in Altoona, Pa.

What happened? The cult hero bombed. Taneyhill threw 14 interceptions and just six touchdown passes in 1993 as the Gamecocks slumped to 4-7. It wasn't a lot

better off the field, as Taneyhill was arrested for underage drinking after the first game of the season.

"I wasn't good at accepting success," said Taneyhill, who rebounded last season to throw for 2,259 yards with 19 touchdowns and just eight interceptions. "You let yourself read too many newspaper articles about you and you get a feeling in your head that you're bigger than you are. But I'm glad my sophomore year I had a bad year because I learned more from that year than at any other time of my life.

"I learned more than just football. I learned about life's ups and downs. I know now how to accept success better. I know what it's like to be on a mountain and I know what it's like to be in the gutter."

Getting much of the credit for Taneyhill's climb back up the mountain is the no-nonsense Scott, the former Florida State offensive coordinator who replaced the easy-going Woods after Taneyhill's sophomore season.

Woods, some players thought, gave Taneyhill star treatment. After Taneyhill was arrested the day after the 1993 Georgia game for underage drinking (Taneyhill performed 30 hours of community service and the charges were expunged from his record), he was allowed to play in the next game at Arkansas. But later in the season, another player was suspended for a game after a brush with the law.

"He got away with a couple of things other players wouldn't have," Pritchett said. "A lot of people were mad that when he got arrested, he didn't have to miss a game."

When Scott came in, he immediately laid down the rules and made it clear there would be no favoritism. One of the rules was that, during the season, players could not have hair that went past their collar.

If Taneyhill wanted to continue to play quarterback for the Gamecocks, his famous locks, which had been streaming out from under his helmet since the ninth grade, would have to go.

"Everybody wants to make my hair a big issue, but it wasn't," Taneyhill said. "It was a team rule. Other guys had to cut their hair."

In March 1994, college football's most famous strands of hair were gone. Taneyhill waited until the night before the first day of spring practice before he had a friend shear his locks.

"I thought he was going to grow it back out during the off-season, but I think he found out that he looked pretty good with short hair," said Taneyhill's mother, Susan.

Taneyhill also discovered there are fewer distractions with short hair. Before several games during his sophomore season, opposing defensive players talked about wanting to bring home a few locks. Nobody got a trophy, but Taneyhill was sacked 29 times.

Taneyhill's inflammatory celebrations also may have fired up a few opponents. But Scott made it clear when he arrived that, like the hair, such actions would have to cease.

"Before I met Steve, I knew he was a highly competitive individual," Scott said. "I hadn't been around him, but there were things that I read about him that certainly weren't things that would fit into my program. What Steve was allowed to do or not do, I don't know.

"But when I met him, he showed me that he was a guy willing to do everything we asked him to do. He said, 'Coach, I've made a few mistakes, but I just want to do what it takes to win.'"

Scott has not badgered Taneyhill into conforming, but what he has done is give him parameters on what he expects from his players.

"That's exactly what Steve has needed," said Taneyhill's father, Art, the athletic director and girls basketball coach at Altoona High, where he has won two state titles and was named the 1988 *USA Today* Coach of the Year. "He needs somebody to push him and to tell him what he can and can't do."

Scott pushed Taneyhill into getting in better shape. Each weekday morning during the summer, Taneyhill rose at 5:30 a.m., when the temperature was in the 80s in steamy Columbia, and went running with other players.

Then it was off to the weight room, where Taneyhill pumped iron as if he were an offensive lineman. By the end of the summer, Taneyhill had dropped 15 pounds of fat and toned his muscle.

"My sophomore season, I was out of shape and overweight," Taneyhill said. "When Coach Scott came in, I knew it was time to get my act together. The hiring of Coach Scott made me realize that if I was going to play, I had to get in shape and work hard and had to be more open-minded about accepting criticism from the coaches. Whatever they said goes."

Much of what Taneyhill also needed was sound football advice. He had never had a quarterback coach, but Scott brought in Rickey Bustle, ironically a Clemson graduate, to work with Taneyhill. Bustle since has departed for Virginia Tech, but Scott replaced him with Reeves, who most recently helped tutor quarterbacks in Florida's pass-happy offense.

Scott and Bustle established a low-risk, ball-control passing attack. They also impressed upon Taneyhill that he didn't have to try to make something big happen every play. During his first two seasons, Taneyhill often threw into crowds rather than unload the ball when nobody was open.

"He made some spectacular plays, but we told him he wasn't going to make a living that way," Scott said.

Continued

In their 102nd season, Gamecocks finally able to strut after a bowl game

The New York Rangers' 54-year quest for a Stanley Cup was nothing compared to what South Carolina went through in their first 101 seasons of football: the Gamecocks did not win a bowl game.

They had chances, but 1980 Heisman Trophy winner George Rogers couldn't lead them to a bowl victory. Neither could the Todd Ellis-to-Sterling Sharpe pass-catch duo. The Gamecocks were 0-8 in bowls, and most of the losses weren't even close.

But everything changed last season, when Brad Scott, fresh off a national championship as an assistant to Florida State's Bobby Bowden, rolled into Columbia, S.C. Scott led the Gamecocks to a 7-5 record, their best mark since going 8-4 in 1988, and a 24-21 victory over West Virginia in the Carquest Bowl.

Long-starved Gamecocks fans went bonkers. When the team returned from the bowl in Miami, a crowd of 7,000 was at the airport to greet it.

"You'd have thought we'd won the national championship, and I wasn't about to tell them any differently," Scott said. "It's been unbelievable around here since. The fans don't want to let go of the bowl."

For once, a group of fans always looking toward the future wanted to dwell on the past.

"You couldn't walk into a grocery store around town without hearing somebody talk about it at the cash register," South Carolina kicker Reed Morton said. "Then I'd walk up to the checkout line and someone would say, 'Wow, is that a bowl ring?'"

Now it's time for the Gamecocks to try to build upon last year's accomplishments. After all, this is a program that never has been to a major bowl, much less won one. And while the 1994 team won the game that counted, the Gamecocks did not beat a team with a winning record during the regular season.

"We have to caution our kids that we have just scratched the surface a bit," said Scott, who has had two solid recruiting classes. "We're just starting to turn the corner. We've got to keep working hard to advance the program."

After Scott took over, he introduced a rigorous winter conditioning program that 16 players could not withstand. Scott's conditioning eventually turned South Carolina into a tough late-game team. The Gamecocks were outscored last season in each of the first three quarters, but they outscored foes 102-49 in the fourth quarter.

"We're committed to getting this program among the elite in the nation, and it will take hard work," Scott said. "You look at the SEC and you have Florida, Auburn and Alabama, who have separated themselves. Then you have Tennessee, which is on the cutting edge of that group. We're in the next group, and we want to fight our way up."

"But we have to be patient because those other programs aren't exactly standing still. This is just our staff's second year here. By our fourth or fifth year, we want to be there."

The goals at South Carolina are simple. There are two large signs in the weight room. One reads "SEC Champs 19??"; the other, "National Champs 19??."

South Carolina fans hope it won't be another 101 seasons before those signs are filled in.

—CHRIS TOMASSON

BOWLED OVER

Now that South Carolina has its first bowl victory, Iowa State (0-4) is the only school that has appeared in at least four bowls and failed to win. South Carolina's bowl history:

- 1994 Carquest Bowl: South Carolina 24, West Virginia 21
- 1988 Liberty Bowl: Indiana 34, South Carolina 10
- 1987 Gator Bowl: LSU 30, South Carolina 13
- 1984 Gator Bowl: Oklahoma State 21, South Carolina 14
- 1980 Gator Bowl: Pitt 37, South Carolina 9
- 1979 Hall of Fame Bowl: Missouri 24, South Carolina 14
- 1975 Tangerine Bowl: Miami (Ohio) 20, South Carolina 7
- 1969 Peach Bowl: West Virginia 14, South Carolina 3
- 1946 Gator Bowl: Wake Forest 26, South Carolina 14

It took time for Taneyhill to completely prove himself to Scott. Taneyhill led the Gamecocks to a 4-1 start. Still, in several games, Scott gave backup quarterback Blake Williamson playing time when the outcome still was in doubt.

Then Taneyhill had two of the finest games of his career in back-to-back weeks. He completed 39 of 58 passes for a school-record 451 yards and three touchdowns in a loss to East Carolina.

He followed that by completing 16 of 26 for 184 yards and a career-high four touchdowns against Mississippi State. The Gamecocks lost, 41-36, but Taneyhill rallied them from a 35-14 deficit to a 36-35 lead with 3:15 left.

"Going in, I was confident that Steve had the leadership skills we wanted, but I wasn't sure how he would respond," Scott said. "Then we had that great comeback in the Mississippi State game. That told me, 'He's the man.' He was the competitor that I thought that he would be. He was our regular quarterback from then on."

For the season, Taneyhill completed 231 of 367 passes to lead the SEC with a 62.9 completion percentage. He finished sixth in the nation in passing efficiency and was named MVP of the Carquest Bowl after he completed 26 of 36 passes for 227 yards and one touchdown in addition to his rushing score.

"That's something that nobody can take away from me, being the quarterback on the first Carolina team ever to win a bowl game," Taneyhill said.

But Taneyhill knows the Gamecocks, who finished 7-5 in '94, hardly have arrived as a power in the SEC. During the regular season, South Carolina didn't beat a team with a winning record.

The Gamecocks never have been to a major bowl, and that is something Taneyhill would like to correct as a senior. But he watches his words carefully.

"Everybody is saying next year is going to be the year for us," Taneyhill said. "But after my freshman year, everyone was saying next year was the year. We can't let it slip away like it did two years ago. Our goals are going to be high, but what bowl I think we can go to I'm not going to say."

Taneyhill has been down that road before. After his freshman season, Taneyhill said he told a reporter his goal was to go to the Sugar Bowl. When the story came out, Taneyhill sounded as if he were making a Joe Namath-like guarantee.

Taneyhill has become increasingly distrustful of the South Carolina media over the years. It is a state in which football is king and college football recruiting is often given more coverage by the media than the basketball season.

"Your image is what the media does to you," Taneyhill said. "I never said anything that bad or did anything that bad. The media blew everything out of proportion and I've tried to avoid them as much as I can."

"I don't trust the media. They ask me what my goal is and I say that we want to try to win every game. Then it comes out that I say we're going to win every game. And the whole thing about me being a long-haired rock 'n' roller—I never portrayed that image."

Don't get the idea that Taneyhill ever has psyched himself up before games by listening to Kenny G. But even while Taneyhill had long hair and was punctuating touchdowns with dances and mock pistol shooting, he was a relatively low-key individual off the field.

"He's not at all like he's been portrayed," said his mother. "He's very relaxed off the field and a very polite young man. But when he plays sports, he becomes very competitive and very emotional. He gets that from his father."

Let it be known, though, that Art Taneyhill always has been quite well-coiffed and has not been known to punctuate Altoona High victories with mock home-run swings.

One thing Taneyhill definitely got from his father is his love of basketball. Ask Taneyhill who he'd rather watch play, Michael Jordan or Troy Aikman, and the decision is easy.

Taneyhill was a fine high school basketball player, but he was a step slow. So when his high school coach, John Franco, told him he had a much better chance of going further in football, Taneyhill did not pursue college basketball scholarship offers.

In the off-season, Taneyhill—who anticipates graduating in May with a criminal justice degree—can be found at the college gym playing pickup games. He can hold his own against South Carolina's varsity. Lately, though, Taneyhill has been taking up a new sport.

It's a sport that has few long-haired players and certainly no outrageous celebrations. It's a sport that fits Taneyhill's new image perfectly.

Meet Steve Taneyhill, the golfer. ♦

Chris Tomasson covers college sports and writes columns for the Spartanburg (S.C.) Herald-Journal.

1995 TOP 25

1 TEXAS A&M

Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, isn't the only Aggie with his eye on No. 1. Not since 1970 has the Southwest Conference had a national champion (Texas by UPI) and something tells us it's now or never. Sure, there are only four returning starters on offense, but that doesn't include All-America Leeland McElroy, the kick returner extraordinaire who moves into the backfield full-time. Quarterback Corey Pullig enters his fourth season as a starter. Coach R.C. Slocum says this may be his best group of linebackers ever; take a bow, Reggie Brown. Defensive end Brandon Mitchell will wreak havoc up front. Cornerback Ray Mickens and free safety Dennis Allen lead a veteran secondary. The Aggies have one early test, at Colorado on September 23, and one late one, the emotional SWC finale against Texas on December 2. College Station may never be the same.



DE Brandon Mitchell

2

FLORIDA

The Gators averaged 43.4 points and 462.8 yards last season. Those might be disappointing figures this year. Junior Danny Wuerffel is the best returning quarterback in the SEC. All-America receiver Jack Jackson leaves early? That leaves more room for sophomore sensation Reidel Anthony. The line is experienced, as are running backs Elijah Williams and Fred Taylor. The defense, as big a mystery to Steve Spurrier as the Internet is to your grandma, needs help on the line. But linebackers Ben Hanks and Dexter Daniels are solid, and cornerback Anthony Lott is a future star. There are two hitches. The kicking game is greener than the grass in The Swamp and October is homeless, as the Gators travel to LSU, Auburn and Georgia.

OT Jason Odom



3

NEBRASKA

The defending national champions avoided the off-season problems that trapped Florida State a year ago. Why, the Cornhusker faithful even likes Tom Osborne now. But the redhead's supply doesn't meet demand. He has two starting quarterbacks (Tommie Frazier and Brook Berninger) for one job and one returning blocker (center Aaron Graham) for five jobs. But because Nebraska produces offensive linemen like, well, the state's farmers harvest corn, there's no worry. Lawrence Phillips will try to improve on his 1,722-yard season of a year ago. The secondary returns three starters, if you include Mike Minter, who blew out his left knee last September. The defensive line and the linebacking corps should be solid.

RB Lawrence Phillips



4

FLORIDA STATE

As dependable as Bobby Bowden's sense of humor, the Seminoles offense will explode. By the end of 1994, Danny Kanell had matured into one of the nation's better quarterbacks (thanks, Gators). Mighty-mile tailbacks Warrick Dunn (a Heisman candidate in someone else's offense) and Rock Preston can carry the team if needed. They may be needed, as the receivers are young. A veteran line is led by All-America center Clay Shiver. The front seven on defense is deep. End Richard Wilson must prove he can sack (an ACC-leading 11 last year) without Derrick Alexander drawing attention. The linebackers may be the nation's best group. The secondary is young. Junior James Colzie makes the big play. Can he make every play?

QB Danny Kanell



5

MIAMI

So what if Butch Davis is the first Miami hire without head-coaching experience since Carl Selmer (5-16 in 1975-76). Davis is part of the family, one with a lot of questions on the defensive line. Warren Sapp is gone and middle linebacker Ray Lewis made every tackle because Sapp had half the offense tied up. Tackles-to-be Marvin Davis and Jason McCullough missed spring practice with injuries. Mr. Lewis, meet offensive lineman. The one-back offense is gone. Davis will implement the Dallas Cowboys' two-back attack. Dannyell Ferguson and Al Shipman supply the speed. At quarterback, Ryan Collins will battle Scott Covington and Ryan Clement. UM will be tested immediately. Three of the first four games are on the road (UCLA, Virginia Tech, Florida State).

LB Ray Lewis



6

USC

If UCLA basketball can make it back to the top, it must be time to hear Conquest on January 1. It's been 22 seasons since USC finished No. 1, but depth (14 returning starters, plus another 12 who have started at least once) and a friendly schedule could make USC a contender. At 6-foot-6, junior quarterback Brad Ottom is tall enough to see over the veteran offensive line. At 6-4, senior Keyshawn Johnson is big enough to catch anything Ottom gets close to him. New defensive coordinator Keith Burns has shifted to a 5-2 alignment to take advantage of a roster replete with linemen. Consecutive games at Notre Dame and at Washington in October will be one test of greatness. Beating either the Irish (0-11-1 in past 12 meetings) or UCLA (four losses in a row) will be another.

SS Sammy Knight



7

PENN STATE

After 12 wins, no losses and no national championship, the Nittany Lions could spend 1995 with a grudge most pro wrestlers would envy. The good news is seven starters return from the nation's most prolific offense east of Michael Jordan. The bad news is none of them is Kerry Collins. But junior Wally Richardson should fit in well. The defense, which never resembled a No. 1 unit, must replace six of the front seven, so the pressure will be on Richardson to win shootouts. With Bobby Engram and Freddie Scott catching passes, Richardson will win his share. The schedule is made for success. None of the five road opponents had winning records in 1994. The Nittany Lions could be worse than last year and still finish No. 1.

QB Wally Richardson



3

ALABAMA

This team may resemble the school's 1992 national championship unit. The defense will be superb and the offense, uh, won't—at least early. Normally, a Gene Stallings offense is as exciting as a church picnic. Even he understands the magnitude of the departure of running back Sherman Williams, as the Tide practiced all spring in four-receiver sets. Brian Burgdorf has proven he can find his receivers. Even if he doesn't, Bama won't need many points. The defensive line is fast on the outside, and tackle Shannon Brown is big and tough inside. Ralph Staten is the next great Alabama linebacker. Someone goofed and let North Carolina State onto what normally is a marshmallow non-league slate. Don't forget. The Tide is 0-for-Jordan-Hare Stadium, where it closes the season against Auburn.

DT Shannon Brown



STEVE BEYER

9

NOTRE DAME

Last year never happened 1994? Perished. Gone. Coach Lou Holtz doesn't like to talk about the 6-5-1 debacle, a season spent in search of leadership and healthy bodies. Quarterback Ron Powlus may have recovered from the beating he took by now. So many linemen filled holes in front of him that he is protected by an experienced front five now. With Demick Mayes looking like an All-America receiver and Randy Kinder and Marc Edwards lined up behind Powlus, Notre Dame has the makings of an explosive offense. But there's little experience on defense, though there is talent. Fortunately, the schedule features nearly as many service academies (three) as tough games (four). The Irish plays Texas, Ohio State and Washington on consecutive Saturdays.

TB Randy Kinder



BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

10

MICHIGAN

The whole team has names straight out of a TV action-hero movie. Meet Jarrett Irons, private eye who hunts down opposing runners. Then there's (Amani) Toomer and Mercury (Hayes), the fastest, hip-swiveling-est fugitives on the run. Suave Remy Hamilton calmly rucks away troubles. And don't forget Tshimanga Blakabutuka, so quick his show will end before the voice-over finishes announcing him. There's a lot to like, if the team can overcome the resignation of Gary Moeller after two sub-par years. The lineup needs an anchor if it wants to win its time slot. Will it be redshirt freshman Scott Dreisbach, sophomore Brian Gnese or senior Jason Carr? Whoever starts at quarterback better be ready for the November sweeps, when Michigan closes at Penn State and at home against Ohio State.

TB Tim Blakabutuka



JOHATHAN DAVIS, ALL-SPORT

11

TENNESSEE

Sophomore quarterback Peyton Manning may look 15, but he did a lot of growing up last season. Now the whole state wants to jump on his back. He must ignore the yearnings of Volunteers in search of national acclaim, or, dare we say, a victory over Alabama (which hasn't happened since 1985). He has an experienced line and receivers he knows well in Nilo Silvan and Joey Kent. If Jay Graham or transfer Travis Cozart doesn't carry the load at running back, Manning will be lonely. Bigger question: Does the offense matter? Ten starters return on defense. End Steve White and leading tackler Scott Galyon at linebacker will be watched plenty on tape. The Vols' fate will be known by September 24, with games against Georgia, Florida and Mississippi State in their rearview mirror.

C Bubba Miller



STEPHEN DUNN, ALL-SPORT

12

AUBURN

Forget his daddy. Can Terry Bowden live up to his own precedent (20-1-1)? The Tigers have more returning starters on offense (eight, including the entire line headed by tackle Willie Anderson) than most NFL teams. Bowden must find receivers to catch Patrick Nix's pinpoint passes. Fred Beasley switches from behind Stephen Davis on the depth chart to in front of him on the field at fullback. The Tigers may have to outscore more than just Florida. The defensive front is new, but there is talent there. The linebackers, especially Anthony Harris and Marcellus Mostella, will be the bulwark. Strong safety Ken Alvis anchors a secondary that will miss early NFL departee Brian Robinson. Easy prediction: Auburn goes to a bowl for the first time since the 1990 season.

LB Anthony Harris



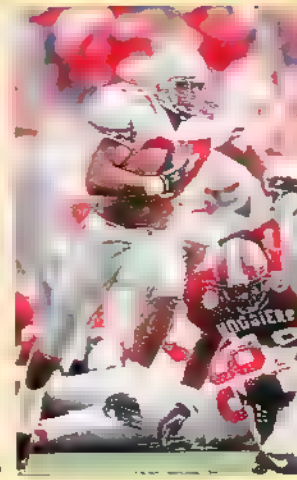
TOM JACKE

13

OHIO STATE

Now that the Buckeyes have received that heart transplant—they beat Michigan for the first time since 1987—will they "Rose" to the occasion for the first time since the '84 campaign? Eight returning starters on offense promise results. Quarterback Bobby Hoyng is dependable. Tailback Eddie George ran for the quietest 1,442 yards in the nation. The defensive line is strong with ends Matt Finkes and Mike Vrabel, but the secondary and linebackers must grow fast. Look at that schedule. The Buckeyes lose Houston and Fresno State and pick up Notre Dame and Boston College. Ohio State plays Notre Dame, Penn State (on the road) and Wisconsin (road) on consecutive Saturdays. Fate may kick John Cooper in the shorts again.

TB Eddie George



JOE GRUBB

14

COLORADO

How many teams could lose a combined five players picked in the first two rounds of the NFL draft and survive? Here's one. The Buffs replace quarterback Kordell Stewart and running back Rashaan Salaam with Koy Detmer and Herschel Troutman, respectively. With three offensive line starters returning, the new backfield will have time to grow. New defensive coordinator A.J. Christoff must find pass rushers. Greg Jones, Matt Russell and Mike Phillips form one of the nation's top linebacking units. The Buffaloes will be buoyed by a veteran secondary led by safeties Donnell Leonmb and Steve Rosga. The schedule is tough: Wisconsin (on the road), Colorado State, Texas A&M and Oklahoma (road) before September ends. If new Coach Rick Neuheisel wanted a challenge, he got one.

C Bryan Stoltzenberg



15

ARIZONA

The Wildcats, the biggest disappointment of 1994, will reverse their fortunes. Teddy Bruschi, that micro pub of a defensive end (6-1, 255), will toss aside offensive tackles in search of a Lombardi Award. Six other defensive starters return, including strong safety Brandon Sanders and tackle Chuck Osborne. The offense will be virtually new, but Dick Tomey's teams haven't made their reputation moving the ball. Quarterback Dan White plays like his former Arizona State namesake. The problem: that Dan White is well over 40. Rangy Richard Dice is a go-to receiver. Gary Taylor must deliver at running back behind a rebuilt offensive line. A September 23 visit from Southern California will set the tone for Arizona, which still is looking for its first Rose Bowl bid.

SS Brandon Sanders



16

NORTH CAROLINA

The short answer is, no, the Tar Heels haven't caught up to Florida State. But the offense will score on anyone. Johnson & Johnson has been reduced to Johnson. Curtis left and Leon stayed. He'll get Curtis' carries, so look for a megayear. Wide receiver Marcus Wall is a threat to score every time he touches the ball, via catch or luck. So is Octavius Barnes on the other side. Senior quarterback Mike Thomas, the full-time starter for the first time, will throw it to either one. North Carolina's problems will come on defense, where six of the front seven, including the top three tacklers, are gone. Tackle Marcus Jones should get used to being double-teamed. North Carolina plays all the ACC contenders at home, except North Carolina State.

DT Marcus Jones



17

UCLA

Don't get too close to these Bruins. They'll break your heart. In the past few years, Terry Donahue has had more injuries than the cast of a Quentin Tarantino movie. Last year when healthy, the Bruins went 5-1. When ailing, they went 0-5. A positive spin to the injury malaise is that the Bruins return 30 players who started at least once in 1994. None of them is a quarterback, where junior Ryan Fien looks to start. Receiver Kevin Jordan is waiting to make Ryan look fine. So are a carload of tailbacks, chiefly Shannon Shah and Skip Hicks. Jonathan Ogden resembles a landside at offensive tackle. Nine starters return on defense, led by outside linebacker Donnie Edwards. The schedule isn't for the meek: four bowl teams in September and Washington and USC to close.

OLB Donnie Edwards



18

TEXAS

A bad spring for the collar. The movie *Priest* bombed and tailback Priest Holmes blew out his knee in the Longhorns' opening scrimmage. The surgery also took a scalpel to Texas' hopes of challenging Texas A&M for the last SWC title. But the other 15 returning starters guarantee Texas will be seen and heard. Coach John Mackovic must decide between Shea Morenz and James Brown at quarterback. There will be a willing partner in receiver Mike Adams. All-SWC in '93 and all-bandage in '94. There are no returning tacklers on offense, but plenty on defense. Tony Brackens is a gem at defensive end. The Orangebloods don't love Mackovic. But if he wins nine with this schedule (Oklahoma, Virginia, Notre Dame, Texas A&M), fans will warm up to him.

DE Tony Brackens



19

BOSTON COLLEGE

Forgive us, Dan Henning, for doubting you would win as many games (seven) in your debut on Chestnut Hill as you ever did in any of your seven seasons as an NFL coach. The offense must and should get better, what with seven returning starters. Expect junior quarterback Mark Hartsell to blossom. Justice Smith must prove durable enough to handle running back by himself. He split time last season and rushed for 708 yards. He's a hint. Run behind tackle Pete Kendall. He is No. 66. The defense looks good despite losing Mike Mamula and Stephen Boyd. Tim Morabito is a 6-foot-3, 263-pound budding in the middle. Last year's tough schedule is tougher with the addition of a 12th game (against Ohio State in the Kickoff Classic).

QB Mark Hartsell



20 NORTH CAROLINA STATE

Third-year Coach Mike O'Carroll remains soft-spoken, but his team has developed a bombastic reputation. The Wolfpack quietly finished second in the ACC last season and could follow the same formula this season: outscore folks. Quarterback Terry Harvey and tailback Tremayne Stephens would look good in any uniform. The brothers Redmond center Kenneth and guard Jonathan will see that those uniforms don't get dirty. Senior guard Steve Keim is one of the league's best. Now for the bad news. The kickers are unproven and the defensive front seven is young. That should make the experienced secondary feel even older. The schedule is top-heavy: Virginia, Florida State (on the road), Baylor, Clemson and Alabama (road) by midseason.



FS James Walker

21 SOUTH CAROLINA

Coach Brad Scott, fresh from spurning overtures from Miami, is making the SEC East sweat. If you can't beat 'em, hire 'em. John Reeves comes from Florida to run the Gamecocks' passing game. Veteran quarterback Steve Taneyhill gets quieter and more productive every season. Big things are expected of fullback Stanley Pritchett, and not just because he weighs 230. The offensive line must cut down on sacks allowed (33). Youth on the defensive line will put pressure on linebackers Hank Campbell and Ronnie Smith to ratchet up their performance. The good news is seven home games; the bad news is Georgia, Mississippi State and Tennessee on the road. The Gamecocks need another year before strutting to the top.



FB Stanley Pritchett

22 ILLINOIS

There was so much turmoil in Champaign last winter you would have thought Lou Henson doubled his duty. Nope, that was bookish Lou Tepper firing offensive coordinator Greg Landry the day after the signing date and losing the Illini's best recruit (quarterback Chris Redman) because of it. Former Ball State coach Paul Schudel promises to spice up the offense. Quarterback Johnny Johnson could use less spice and more starch. He must show a senior's consistency. Ty Douthard must play the way he did against Penn State (35 carries, 172 yards) on 10 other Saturdays. Outside linebackers Simeon Rice and Kevin Hardy—the best pair in the nation—may have great years, but nobody could know it because of a young defensive line.



OLB Simeon Rice

23 WISCONSIN

Now that Barry Alvarez has been paid the ultimate compliment—losing four assistants, including Iowa State Coach Dan McCarney—he must pull the Badgers back into Big Ten contention. There are a lot of holes to fill: from tight end to center on the left side of the offensive line and the entire secondary. The backfield looks good: Darrell Bevell begins, oh, his seventh year at quarterback. Can sophomore tailback Carl McCullough live up to his scrapbook? While the secondary could be the problem on defense, the line and linebackers, led by tackle Jason Maneck and linebacker Pete Monty, should be strong. Wisconsin opens against Colorado and Stanford. But of the last six opponents, only Illinois had a winning record in '94. Survive and thrive, Badgers.



QB Darrell Bevell

24 KANSAS STATE

Enough booing and aching about the Wildcats, exiled longer than Nelson Mandela. After consecutive bronze medals in the Big Eight, it's time to demand better, as in a better schedule and a better finish. Kansas State's September opponents won a combined nine games last year. Funny thing is, the Wildcats have the talent to play tougher teams. Sixteen starters return. The questions are at quarterback and tailback. Senior Matt Miller takes over for Chad May at quarterback and has two outstanding receivers in Kevin Lockett and Tyson Schwieger, who combined for 83 catches a year ago. The only holes on defense are at linebacker. A lot will be at stake in the season-ender against Colorado. Can the 'Cats win a big game?



OLB Percell Gaskins

25 VIRGINIA

Cavaliers Coach George Welsh won a power struggle with former athletic director Jim Copeland and got a 12th game, opening at Michigan in the Pigskin Classic, as a prize. Sorry, George, there was no second prize. But Welsh does have 17 returning starters. The only question will be the defensive line. Otherwise, the tactum Welsh actually has a lot of answers, even if he may not divulge them. He'll need them early. Aside from going to Ann Arbor, the Cavs must travel to North Carolina State, Clemson, North Carolina and Texas before Halloween. Mike Groh is a smart passer. Brothers Tito (tailback) and Ronde (cornerback) Barber will continue to grab headlines. That ACC race would be something if they hadn't gone and invited Florida State.



RB Tiki Barber

THE REST: NOS. 26-103

26. Washington	68. Minnesota
27. West Virginia	69. Mississippi
28. Oregon	70. Georgia Tech
29. Fresno State	71. Wyoming
30. Louisville	72. Nevada
31. Iowa	73. Western Michigan
32. Colorado State	74. New Mexico
33. California	75. SW Louisiana
34. Oklahoma	76. Tulsa
35. BYU	77. Toledo
36. Texas Tech	78. Oklahoma State
37. Virginia Tech	79. Utah
38. LSU	80. Temple
39. Texas Christian	81. SMU
40. Clemson	82. Wake Forest
41. Duke	83. Northern Illinois
42. East Carolina	84. Kentucky
43. Oregon State	85. Hawaii
44. Air Force	86. Eastern Michigan
45. Baylor	87. Cincinnati
46. Kansas	88. UTEP
47. Arkansas	89. Ball State
48. Pitt	90. New Mexico State
49. Syracuse	91. Miami (Ohio)
50. Mississippi State	92. Utah State
51. Georgia	93. NE Louisiana
52. Indiana	94. Tulane
53. Washington State	95. Iowa State
54. Purdue	96. Houston
55. Arizona State	97. Louisiana Tech
56. Bowling Green	98. UNLV
57. Michigan State	99. Central Michigan
58. Southern Miss	100. Pacific
59. Rice	101. Army
60. San Diego State	102. San Jose State
61. Missouri	103. Arkansas State
62. Stanford	104. North Texas
63. Maryland	105. Kent
64. Northwestern	106. Akron
65. Rutgers	107. Navy
66. Memphis	108. Ohio U.
67. Vanderbilt	

COLLEGE BOWL SCHEDULE

Game	Site	Date	This year's matchup
Freedom Bowl	Anaheim, Calif.	TBA	WAC #3 vs. open
Las Vegas Bowl	Las Vegas	Dec. 17	MAC #1 vs. Big West #1
Aloha Bowl	Honolulu	Dec. 25	Big 12 #5 or #6 vs. TBA
Copper Bowl	Tucson, Ariz.	Dec. 27	WAC #2 vs. Big 12 #5 or #6
Holiday Bowl	San Diego	Dec. 29	WAC #1/Pac-10 #2 vs. Big 12 #3
Independence Bowl	Shreveport, La.	Dec. 29	Two open slots
Sun Bowl	El Paso, Texas	Dec. 29	Pac-10 #3 vs. Big Ten #5
Carquest Bowl	Miami	Dec. 30	Big East #3 vs. either ACC #4 or SEC #5
Liberty Bowl	Memphis, Tenn.	Dec. 30	Independent alliance vs. open
Peach Bowl	Atlanta	Dec. 30	ACC #3 vs. SEC #4
Alamo Bowl	San Antonio	Dec. 31	Big Ten #4 vs. Big 12 #4
Sugar Bowl	New Orleans	Dec. 31	Bowl alliance
Cotton Bowl	Dallas	Jan. 1	Big 12 #2 vs. WAC #1/Pac-10 #2
Florida Citrus Bowl	Orlando	Jan. 1	SEC #2 vs. Big Ten #2
Gator Bowl	Jacksonville	Jan. 1	ACC #2 vs. Big East #2
Orange Bowl	Miami	Jan. 1	Bowl alliance
Outback Bowl	Tampa	Jan. 1	SEC #3 vs. Big Ten #3
Rose Bowl	Pasadena, Calif.	Jan. 1	Big Ten #1 vs. Pac-10 #1
Fiesta Bowl	Tempe, Ariz.	Jan. 2	Bowl alliance

COACHING CHANGES

DIVISION I-A

School	Former coach	New coach	New coach's previous job
Akron	Gerry Faust	Lee Owens	Ohio State assistant
Ball State	Paul Schudel	Bill Lynch	Indiana assistant
Colorado	Bill McCartney	Rick Neuheisel	Colorado assistant
Eastern Michigan	Ron Cooper	Rick Rasnick	Utah assistant
Georgia Tech	Bill Lewis	George O'Leary*	Georgia Tech assistant
Iowa State	Jim Walden	Dan McCarney	Wisconsin assistant
Louisiana State	Curley Hallman	Gerry DiNardo	Vanderbilt coach
Louisville	Howard Schnellenberger	Ron Cooper	Eastern Michigan coach
Memphis	Chuck Stobart	Rip Scherer	James Madison coach
Miami	Dennis Erickson	Butch Davis	Dallas Cowboys assistant
Michigan	Gary Moeller	Lloyd Carr**	Michigan assistant
Michigan State	George Perles	Nick Saban	Cleveland Browns assistant
Mississippi	Joe Lee Dunn***	Tommy Tuberville	Texas A&M assistant
Navy	George Chaump	Charlie Weatherbie	Utah State coach
Ohio University	Tom Lichtenberg	Jim Grobe	Air Force assistant
Oklahoma	Gary Gibbs	Howard Schnellenberger	Louisville coach
Oklahoma State	Pat Jones	Bob Simmons	Colorado assistant
Oregon	Rich Brooks	Mike Bellotti	Oregon assistant
Stanford	Bill Walsh	Tyrone Willingham	Minnesota Vikings assistant
Utah State	Charlie Weatherbie	John L. Smith	Idaho coach
Vanderbilt	Gerry DiNardo	Rod Dowhower	Cleveland Browns assistant

*Coached last three games of 1994 season. **Interim coach. ***Interim coach for 1994 season.

DIVISION I-AA

School	Former coach	New coach	New coach's previous job
Alabama-Birmingham	Jim Hilyer	Watson Brown	Oklahoma assistant
Bucknell	Lou Maranzana	Tom Gadd	San Jose State assistant
Buffalo	Jim Ward	Craig Cribbs	Penn State assistant
Cal State Northridge	Bob Burt	David Baldwin	Santa Rosa (Calif.) JC coach
Cal State Sacramento	Mike Clemons	TBA	
Canisius	Barry Mynter	Chuck Williams	Canisius assistant
Idaho	John L. Smith	Chris Tormey	Washington assistant
James Madison	Rip Scherer	Alex Wood	Wake Forest assistant
Nicholls State	Rick Rhoades	Darren Barber	Hahnville High (La.) coach
Richmond	Jim Marshall	Jim Reid	Boston College assistant
Southwest Missouri State	Jesse Branch	Del Miller	Kansas State assistant



While the team he plays for—Georgia—is a middle-of-the-pack school this season, senior Randall Godfrey is no middle-of-the-pack middle linebacker.

REQUIEM FOR A FORMER HEAVYWEIGHT

By KEVIN SHERRINGTON

On the bitter winter day it was announced that the Southwest Conference had died, with its football funeral to come almost two years later, the man who made the league famous felt a pang or two.

Sammy Baugh last played for Texas Christian nearly a half-century ago. These days, he barely gets off his west Texas ranch. He is so reclusive that even when the Washington Redskins beg him to return for reunions so fans could see the man many consider the greatest quarterback ever, he won't go. He won't go anywhere he can't drive, and he sure isn't driving 1,500 miles just to dig up some memories.

But when the news reached him out in Rotan in February 1994 that his old league was done, even crusty old Sammy Baugh was a little sentimental.

"It doesn't ring right with me," he said when SWC officials announced that Texas, Texas A&M, Baylor and Texas Tech would join Big Eight members after the 1995-96 school year to form what has since been named the Big 12 Conference. The defection of the four teams effectively killed the 80-year-old SWC, leaving Southern Methodist, Texas Christian, Rice and Houston to fend for themselves. (SMU, TCU and Rice eventually wrangled an agreement with the Western Athletic Conference, and Houston went into the new Conference USA with elements of the Great Midwest and Metro conferences.)

"Money is a big thing," Baugh said of the breakup. "It's the whole damn thing. I hate to see it break up."

Baugh's feelings didn't settle much in the months after the announcement. He understands the economics and the league's inherent problems. The SWC lost its national standing. Big-time recruits, even those born in Texas, weren't interested anymore, and neither was television. Much contributed to the demise, from the incestuous problems of eight schools in one state—splintering the fan base—to a series of NCAA scandals in the 1980s.

"I hated to see it end because it had been

going on so long," Baugh said of the SWC, born in 1915, the year after he was. "Back when I was there (1934-36), and for years after that, I thought it was a great conference."

Without question, it was. Still, anyone born since the Baby Boom went bust might have trouble understanding. The SWC hasn't had a legitimate shot at a national title since 1983, when Texas went unbeaten in regular-season play. But Craig Curry's muffed punt against Georgia in the Cotton Bowl cost the Longhorns a chance to nail down the championship.

The death of the league wasn't sudden, either. Arkansas bolted to the Southeastern Conference after the 1991 season, a move that former Texas coach Darrell Royal called the beginning of the end. Even at that, the league had been lingering for years, with only Texas A&M much of a national presence.

The league's initials came to stand for the So What? Conference. This was particularly galling for Texans who, despite their eclectic collection of professional sports teams, still consider theirs a football-first state. This is where outside coaches shop for football players, anyway.

But there are people who remember what it was like when SWC fans didn't have to apologize for their loyalties. Most of them remember the league's five national championships—Texas (1963, 1969, 1970), Texas Christian (1938) and Texas A&M (1939). You could make a case for SMU, too, which headed a couple of the myriad polls in existence in 1935 (when, in pre-wire-service voting, Minnesota dominated the balloting overall). The fans also recall the SWC's five Heisman Trophy winners: Davey O'Brien, Doak Walker, John David Crow, Earl Campbell and Andre Ware. And they might even remember that the man the Heisman is named for once coached at Rice.

They also remember Bobby Layne refusing to allow Texas to lose, Baylor's bugged Mike Singletary hitting people so hard it broke his helmets, SMU's Forrest Gregg opening big holes, Texas' Tommy Nobis both opening and closing holes, SMU's Eric Dickerson running to daylight,

Houston's Wilson Whitley taking hunks out of offensive lines and Rice's Dicky Macgle running down that sideline at the Cotton Bowl, with nothing but green grass and Alabama's bench in front of him.

There are plenty of people who remember when Rice was good, if not particularly good to its mascots. Rice's first owl met an ignominious end when, tethered to a tree branch, it fell from its perch and suffocated from a snoot-full of mud.

SWC mascots have been stolen, branded, neglected, barbecued, eaten and desecrated. Texas' mascot got its nickname when Texas A&M fans rustled the longhorn, then branded it with the score of an Aggie victory. Texas partisans recaptured the animal and turned the 13-0 into "Bevo," and the nickname stuck.

The league's greatest rivalries have been Arkansas vs. Texas, Texas A&M vs. Texas, Baylor vs. Texas, anyone vs. Texas. Another key rivalry, SMU vs. TCU, introduced provincial East Coast sportswriters to the little-known SWC when the two schools met in a titanic struggle in 1935. And there was the Big Shootout of 1969, matching top-ranked Texas against Arkansas, rated No. 2 in one wire-service poll and No. 3 in the other. President Nixon dropped in for that game.

In Baugh's glory years and for two decades after, the SWC was known as a passing fancy. But, from the time in the late 1950s when Bear Bryant reintroduced Texas A&M to the concept, the SWC's reputation was one of thundering football. Texas' wishbone—so christened by a sportswriter because the formation resembled the remains of his lunch—became the nation's most familiar offense for more than a decade. Emory Bellard's creation for Texas' Royal became *de rigueur* in Texas, in college and high school. When he took over at Baylor in 1972, Grant Teaff noted that six of the league's eight teams ran the wishbone.

But the league also invented—or at least popularized—two other offenses. Houston's Bill Yeoman came up with the veer in the mid-1960s, before the Cougars were SWC members. His successor, Jack

Storied Southwest Conference goes down for the count after '95 season, but it leaves a Texas-tall football legacy



Pardee, used the run-and-shoot to pile up enough yardage and points to win Ware a Heisman Trophy; he also received more than a little flak for running up 95 points against hapless SMU, which was just coming off two years of inactivity after receiving the "death penalty" because of NCAA transgressions.

That Pardee would become wedded to such a pinball offense is startling. He came up in the 1950s under Bryant at Texas A&M, and was a survivor of the infamous Junction training camp in 1954. Bryant, in his first season at College Station after eight years at Kentucky, was looking for a place far from interfering alumni and, as he later put it, a place to separate the "quitters from the keepers." He found his place in Junction, a west Texas town burned to a crisp by a five-year drought.

Bryant would lose more than two-thirds of his team in that hellish 10-day camp, going home with 29 players.

Gene Stallings, the current Alabama coach who also played for Bryant as an Aggie, had the most-quoted line about Junction: "We went in two buses and came back in one."

As the media ate lunch during the Junction stop on the 1954 SWC press tour, sportswriters were afforded the sight of players working out or throwing up, depending on the vantage point. At night, too tired to go into town, Aggie players rolled up the flaps on the barrack huts in an attempt to catch any stray breezes.

Dave Campbell, former sports editor of the *Waco (Texas) Tribune-Herald*, called Junction the most memorable stop in 31 years on the tour. And Bryant, referring to the conditions, would tell his biographer: "If you hadn't been so well-raised, you'd have wished you were dead."

Bryant stayed only four years at Texas A&M, leaving for his alma mater, Alabama, after the 1957 season. Abe Martin, a coaching rival at TCU, said Bryant "got our feet off our desks and made us put up our golf clubs." But Bryant also departed with the reputation of doing anything to win, which was reflected in the undefeated Aggies' ineligibility for the 1957 Cotton Bowl.

Bryant left the SWC's national fortunes in the hands of Royal, an old Oklahoma quarterback who had taken Texas from last place to second in his first year, '57. Bryant had been a huge Royal fan, and it soon became apparent why. Texas went 167-47-5 in 20 seasons under Royal, and the Longhorns won all three of their national titles under his direction.

"The thing I remember with the most nostalgia," Royal said, "was when I came to Texas at the age of 32. I went to the conference meeting and there were people like Mr. (D.X.) Bible, Jess Neely, Matty Bell, Dutch Meyer, John Barnhill. All those guys were heroes of mine. I'd only been a head coach a short time, and I never considered myself on their level. But they treated me as if I were, and I'll never forget that."

But Royal's most striking relationship with another SWC coach began to develop in 1958, when Frank Broyles took over at Arkansas. Over nearly two decades, they

Among the vivid memories of SWC play is Bobby Layne's refusal to allow Texas to lose. Layne was a consensus all-league selection four times and led the Longhorns to a 28-4 record in his final three years.

Continued

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- Updated league rosters and top 5 in your division & top 5 overall sent every 6 weeks.
- Fax service available.

ENTRY DEADLINES

- Entries must be phoned or faxed by Sat., Sept. 2, 1995.
- Mailed entries must be postmarked no later than Sept. 2, 1995 and received no later than Sat., Sept. 9, 1995.

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3 WAYS TO EARN CASH PRIZES

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Place	Overall Prizes (all entries)	Division Prizes (250 teams)	League Prizes (25 teams)
1st	\$25,000	\$1,000	\$600
2nd	\$10,000	\$500	\$300
3rd	\$5,000	\$250	\$100
4th	\$2,500	\$100	\$75
5th	\$1,000	\$75	\$50
6th to 10th	\$500	\$50	
11th to 15th	\$250	\$30	
16th to 25th	\$100	\$25	

**Plus \$100 will be awarded to
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- \$79.00 for an entry postmarked by July 22, 1995
- \$89.00 for an entry postmarked by August 12, 1995
- \$99.00 for an entry postmarked after August 12, 1995
- \$79.00 for each additional entry
- \$10.00 for reports to be mailed to a second address
- \$10.00 per address per team for reports to be mailed weekly rather than bi-weekly

TRANSACTION FEES

- To make player transactions, a toll-free 800 number and an account number will be provided.
- The transaction fees are as follows:
 - Taxi Squad Switch (unlimited)\$3 each
 - Bye Player Moved In or Out (unlimited)\$1 each
 - New Player Purchase (limit 8)\$10 each
 - TSN Free Agent Acquisition (limit 3)No Charge
 - Fax Service (per page per week)\$1
- Player transactions must be made by Saturday 9 PM Central Time in order to be effective for the upcoming Sunday and Monday games, or by 9 PM CST the day preceding any other game.

SCORING

- Each team will be ranked within its league, division and overall by eight statistical categories:
 - Total Scoring
 - Kicker Scoring
 - Total Rushing Yards
 - Rushing Yards Average
 - Total Receiving Yards
 - Receiving Yards Average
 - Total Passing Yards
 - Passing Yards Average
- The following formula is used to calculate total scoring: (Rushing TDs x 6) + (Passing TDs x 3) + (Receiving TDs x 3) + (Field Goals x 3) + Extra Points + (Other TDs x 6).
- The average categories are calculated using your team total completions, carries and receptions.
- Rankings will be determined by using the Rotisserie®-style ranking system. Each team is ranked in league, division and overall.
- Stats are accumulated weekly for all 20 starting players. The stat week begins with games played on Thursday and ends with games played on Monday.
- All pro football statistics accumulated by the players on the starting team, regardless of what position they play during the season, contribute to a team's statistics totals. Special team yardage does not count.
- Taxi squad players' stats don't contribute to team's stat totals.
- Previous stats by a player before he was on your roster do not count.
- A player's statistics are added to your team's statistics totals only during the weeks that he is in your starting team.
- Pre-season and play-off statistics do not contribute to your team's statistics totals.
- Division points are calculated by ranking your team's statistics totals versus every other team's stats in your division's 10 leagues.
- Overall points are calculated by ranking your team's statistics totals versus all other entries in *The Sporting News™ Fantasy Football Challenge*.

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Call 1-800-568-6286**

- The Sporting News™ Fantasy Football Challenge* welcomes entries from around the world. All fees, however, must be paid with U.S. funds. For overseas entries, please add \$10 to cover additional mailing costs. If needed, our toll number is 1-314-991-1511.
- Player transactions can be made with live commissioners 9 AM - 9 PM Tuesday through Saturday.
- You must be 18 years or older to participate.
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- Void where prohibited by law.
- Further explanation of all rules will be contained in your Welcome Package.

The Sporting News

FANTASY FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

Player Salaries

Kickers			Quarterbacks (cont)			Running Backs (cont)			Tight Ends			Wide Receivers			Wide Receivers			
ID	Player	TM Salary	ID	Player	TM Salary	ID	Player	TM Salary	ID	Player	TM Salary	ID	Player	TM Salary	ID	Player	TM Salary	
1	CARNEY, JOHN	SD 2190	136	STEWART, KODELL	PIT 800	258	LOGAN, MARC	WAS 460	401	SHARPE, SHANNON	DEN 1800	501	RICE, JERRY	SF 2180	502	JAFFEES, HAYWOOD	N/A 720	
2	ELAM, JASON	DEN 2100	137	COLLINS, TODD	SEA 770	257	MCNAIR, TODD	N/A 460	402	JONES, BRENT	SF 1560	502	IRVIN, MICHAEL	DAL 2050	503	MARTIN, KELVIN	JAC 710	
3	ANDERSEN, MORTON	NO 2080	138	FRIESZ, JOHN	BUF 800	258	MJSTER, BRAD	NO 460	403	GREEN, ERIC	MIA 1560	503	MOORE, HERMAN	DET 1680	504	CALLOWAY, CHRIS	NYG 700	
4	BOWEN, CHRIS	DAL 2010	139	KRAMER, ERIC	CHI 750	259	GARNER, CHARLIE	PHI 460	404	JACKSON, KEITH	GB 1550	504	MILLER, ANTHONY	DEN 1660	505	JACKSON, MARK	JAC 680	
5	STOYANOVICH, PETE	MIA 2000	140	CARLSON, CODY	HOU 720	260	BUNCH, JARROD	HOU 460	405	MITCHELL, JOHNNY	NYJ 1430	505	ELLARD, HENRY	WAS 1620	506	GREEN, WILLIE	CAR 670	
6	ANDERSON, G	N/A 2000	141	SALSBURY, SEAN	N/A 700	261	MITCHELL, BRIAN	WAS 460	406	COATES, BEN	NE 1410	506	FRYAR, IRVING	MIA 1580	507	DAWSEY, LAWRENCE	TB 660	
7	REVEZ, FJAD	MIN 2000	142	FREROTTE, GUS	WAS 650	262	MOORE, DERRICK	SF 430	407	HARRIS, JACKIE	TE 1140	507	SHARPE, STERLING	N/A 1570	508	CARTER, ANTHONY	N/A 640	
8	CHRISTIE, STEVE	BUF 1940	143	RICHARDSON, BUCKY	HOU 560	263	VARDELL, TOMMY	CLE 410	408	BRUNER, MARK	PIT 1000	508	BROWN, TIM	RAJ 1520	509	STONE, DWIGHT	PIT 620	
9	JACKE, CHRIS	GB 1920	144	EVANS, VINCE	N/A 560	264	RUSSELL, LEONARD	N/A 390	409	BRADY, KYLE	NYJ 1000	509	REED, ANDRE	BUF 1500	510	JAMCHORNE, REGGIE	N/A 620	
10	HANSON, JASON	DET 1900	145	CANNON, RICH	KC 550	265	SMITH, ROBERT	MIN 390	410	MCGEE, TONY	CIN 570	510	RISON, ANDRE	CLE 1490	511	SMALL, CADRY	MIN 620	
11	BRIEN, DOUG	SF 1850	146	HAGLE, BROWNING	IND 530	266	NEAL, LORENZO	NO 380	411	CROSS, HOWARD	NYG 800	511	DAVIS, WILLIE	KC 1450	512	JEFFERSON, SHAWN	SD 620	
12	LOWERY, NICK	NYJ 1800	147	TRUDEAU, JACK	CAR 500	267	THOMAS, BLAIR	N/A 370	412	WATKINS, KENDELL	DAL 800	512	HARPER, ALVIN	TB 1390	513	SMALL, RAGHS	RAJ 620	
13	JAEGER, JEFF	RAJ 1780				268	WILLIAMS, JOHN L	PIT 370	413	DILGER, KEN	IND 800	513	ALEXANDER, DERRICK	CLE 1370	514	WINANS, TYDUS	WAS 610	
14	JOHNSON, NORM	ATL 1770				269	HEBRON, VAUGH	PHI 370	414	FAURIA, CHRISTIAN	SEA 800	514	ANDERSON, WILLIE	IND 1240	515	REED, JAKE	MIN 610	
15	DEL GRECO, AL	N/A 1740				270	ROBINSON, GREG	RAJ 360	415	BAYARD, MARK	N/A 740	515	CLARK, GARY	MIA 1100	516	STEE, MARK	SD 590	
16	PELFREY, DOUG	CIN 1700	281	SANDERS, BARRY	DET 3710	271	WORKMAN, VINCE	TB 360	416	WALLS, WESLEY	NO 700	516	BARNETT, FRED	PHI 1090	517	MILLS, ERNIE	PIT 580	
17	STOVER, MATT	CLE 1680	282	SMITH, EMMITT	DAL 3530	272	VAUGHN, JON	KC 360	417	HORTON, ETHAN	N/A 620	517	BRISBY, VINCENT	NE 1070	518	ROUSE, REX	N/A 580	
18	LOHMEYER, CHIP	WAS 1650	283	FAULK, MARSHALL	IND 2590	273	MURRELL, ADRIAN	NYJ 350	418	CASH, KERRY	RAJ 610	518	MARTIN, ERIC	KC 1060	519	RUSSELL, DEREK	N/A 560	
19	BUTLER, KEVIN	CHI 1650	284	ALLEN, TERRY	MIN 2450	274	GREEN, HAROLD	CIN 350	419	NOVACEK, JAY	DAL 580	519	MOORE, ROB	ARZ 1060	520	WADDLE, TOM	CIN 550	
20	BAHR, MATT	NE 1540	285	WARREN, CHRIS	SEA 2460	275	FLOYD, WILLIAM	SF 350	420	PIERCE, AARON	NYG 550	520	HAYNES, MICHAEL	NO 1560	521	BAILEY, VICTOR	KC 540	
21	BASUCCI, DEAN	N/A 1470	286	WATERS, RICKY	PHI 2350	276	THOMPSON, D	CHI 350	421	WALKER, DERRICK	KC 520	521	GRAHAM, JEFF	CHI 1830	522	HOWARD, DESMOND	JAC 540	
22	MURRAY, EDDIE	PHI 1450	287	THOMAS, THURMAN	BUF 2290	277	BEN-EL-MEY, ERIC	CIN 320	422	JORDAN, STEVE	MIN 510	522	JACKSON, MICHAEL	CLE 1010	523	MARSHALL, ARTHUR	NYG 540	
23	HUSTED, MICHAEL	TB 1450	288	FOSTER, BARRY	PIT 2000	278	THOMPSON, LEROY	N/A 310	423	DRAFTON, TROY	STL 500	523	MARTIN, TONY	SD 1000	524	SANDERS, RICKY	N/A 530	
24	TREADWELL, DAVID	N/A 1450	289	BETTS, JEROME	STL 1990	279	WORD, BARRY	N/A 310	424	KINCHEN, BRIAN	CLE 470	524	GALLOWAY, JOEY	SEA 1000	525	CONWAY, CURTIS	CHI 530	
25	DAVIS, GREG	ARZ 1440	290	MORRIS, GARY	PIT 1710	280	BENNETT, EDGAR	GB 310	425	COOPER, ADRIAN	MIN 450	525	SANDERS, DEON	N/A 1000	526	WRIGHT, ALEXANDER	STL 520	
26	KASAY, JOHN	CAR 1410	291	WHITE, LORENZO	CLE 1590	281	HILLIARD, DALTON	N/A 300	426	METZELARS, PETE	CAR 400	526	STOKES, J.J.	SF 1000	527	BROOKS, BILL	N/A 510	
27	ZENDEJAS, TONY	GB 1390	292	WALKER, HERSHEL	NYG 1560	282	WILLIAMS, HARVEY	RAJ 290	427	GLOVER, ANDREW	RAJ 390	527	WESTBROOK, MICHAEL	WAS 1050	528	PRITCHARD, MIKE	DEN 510	
28	ELLIOTT, LAM	KC 1370	293	MEANS, NATORNE	SD 1510	283	CENTERS, LARRY	ARZ 290	428	ARMSTRONG, TYJ	TB 380	528	CARTER, CHRIS	MIN 980	529	LEWIS, NATE	ATL 490	
29	COFFER, MIKE	IND 1260	294	HAMPTON, ROONEY	NYG 1420	284	JOHNSON, LESHOM	GB 290	429	WEST, ED	IND 380	529	HESTER, JESSIE	STL 970	530	CRITTENDEN, RAY	NE 490	
30	DALUSO, BRAD	NYG 1170	295	BROWN, GARY	HOU 1420	285	DUNBAR, VAUGHN	NO 280	430	JOHNSON, REGGIE	N/A 330	530	PICKENS, CARL	CIN 970	531	SMALL, TORRANCE	NO 490	
31	WILKINS, JEFF	PHI 1000	296	JOHNSON, JOHNNY	NYJ 1370	286	LEWIS, DARREN	N/A 270	431	HAYES, JONATHAN	PIT 320	531	TAYLOR, JOHN	SF 970	532	MORGAN, ANTHONY	N/A 430	
			297	BROOKS, REGGIE	WAS 1170	287	CHAFFEY, PAT	N/A 270	432	HALL, RON	DET 310	532	JETT, JAMES	RAJ 960	533	DUNCAN, CURTIS	N/A 410	
			298	METCALF, ERIC	ATL 1130	288	BENNETT, DONNELL	KC 270	433	BRENNER, ROBY	N/A 290	533	SHERARD, MIKE	NYG 960	534	TILMAN, CEDRIC	JAC 410	
			299	HOARD, LEROY	CLE 1080	289	GRAHAM, SCOTTIE	MIN 260	434	HOLMAN, HODNY	DET 270	534	CARRER, MARK J	CAR 940	535	MCCAFFREY, ED	DEN 400	
			300	WHEATLEY, TYRONE	NYG 1000	290	WORLEY, TIM	N/A 260	435	CASH, KEITH	KC 270	535	WILLIAMS, CALVIN	PHI 920	536	MCCOUFFEY, D.J.	MIA 400	
			301	YOUNG, STEVE	SF 4060	291	KALFMAN, NAP	RAJ 1000	436	PUPUNU, ALFRED	SD 250	536	EARLY, QUINN	NO 920	537	MCGEE, TIM	CIN 390	
			302	HOSTETLER, JEFF	RAJ 3000	292	STEWART, JAMES	JAC 1000	437	CARTER, PAT	HOL 250	537	PRODEL, RICKY	SEA 920	538	QUERY, JEFF	CIN 370	
			303	MAR, NO. DAN	MIA 2960	293	WILLIAMS, S	DAL 1000	438	GEORGEY, CHRIS	CHI 240	538	BIRDEN, JJ	ATL 910	539	CLAYTON, MARK	N/A 360	
			304	TESTAVERDE, VINNY	CLE 2470	294	BELL, NICK	CHI 1000	439	JENNINGS, KEITH	N/A 230	539	GRIVINS, ERNEST	HOU 900	540	JOHNSON, VANCE	DET 350	
			305	ELWAY, JOHN	DEN 2460	295	ANDERS, KIMBLE	KC 1000	440	POPSON, TED	SF 209	540	SCOTT, DARNAY	CIN 900	541	BRUCE, ISAAC	STL 350	
			306	KELLY, JIM	BUF 2440	296	CARTER, DEXTER	NYJ 230				541	COPELAND, HORACE	TB 880	542	COPELAND, RUSSELL	BUF 340	
			307	JUMPHRIS, STAN	SD 2410	297	WARREN, LAMONT	IND 220				542	HILL, RANDAL	MIA 880	543	DAVIS, WENDELL	CHI 340	
			308	CUMMINGHAM, R	PHI 2280	298	JOHNSON, ANTHONY	CHI 220				543	EMANUEL, BERT	ATL 870	544	TILLMAN, LAWYER	CAR 330	
			309	SHULER, HEATH	WAS 2230	299	RATHMAN, TONY	N/A 210				544	BLADES, BRIAN	SEA 870	545	BARNETT, TIM	N/A 320	
			310	ERICKSON, CRAIG	IND 2120	300						545	DAWKINS, SEAN	IND 850	546	WELLMAN, GARY	HOU 310	
			311	MOON, WARREN	MIN 2120	301						546	JOHNSON, CHARLES	PIT 830	547	SINGLETON, NATE	SF 290	
			312	B. EDSOE, DREW	NE 2080	302						547	MATHIS, TERENCE	ATL 830	548	JONES, ERNIE	N/A 290	
			313	KRIEG, DAVE	ARZ 2040	303						548	WILSON, CHARLES	TB 800	549	BROOKS, ROBERT	GB 270	
			314	O'DONNELL, NEIL	PIT 2040	304						549	SANDERS, FRANK	ARZ 800	550	TURNER, FLOYD	IND 260	
			315	HEBERT, BOBBY	ATL 1980	305						550	OLIVER, JIMMY	SD 800	551	EDWARDS, ANTHONY	N/A 260	
			316	EVERETT, JIM	NO 1930	306						551	PERRIMAN, BRETT	DET 790	552	MCMURTRY, GREG	CHI 250	
			317	AIKMAN, TROY	DAL 1880	307						552	HAWKINS, COURTNEY	TB 790	553	THOMAS, LAMAR	TB 250	
			318	GEORGE, JEFF	ATL 1810	308						553	SLAUGHTER, W	HOU 780	554	MCCARDOLL, KEENACLE	SEA 250	
			319	HARBAUGH, JIM	IND 1420	309						554	BEER, DON	CAR 770	555	WILLIAMS, KEVIN	DAL 230	
			320	FAVRE, BRETT	GB 1400	310						555	IMPSON, MICHAEL	CHI 770	556	DBEE, TERRY	N/A 230	
			321	BLAKE, JEFF	CIN 1320	311						556	DAWSON, LAKE	KC 750	557	HARRIS, LEONARD	N/A 220	
			322	BEJERLE, M. STEVE	JAC 1300	312						557	INGRAM, MARK	GB 740	558	HASTINGS, ANDRE	PIT 220	
			323	TOMCZAK, MIKE	PIT 1270	313												
			324	ESIASON, BOOMER	NYJ 1210	314												
			325	MITCHELL, SCOT	DET 1150	315												
			326	PEETE, ROONEY	PHI 1150	316												
			327	MILLER, CHRIS	STL 1080	317												
			328	MIRER, RICK	SEA 1050	318												
			329	CHANDLER, CHRIS	HOU 1020	319												
			330	COLLINS, KERRY	CAR 1000	320												
			331	MCNAIR, STEVE	HOU 1000	321												
			332	WILSON, WADE	N/A 910	322												
			333	SCHROEDER, JAY	N/A 850	323												
			334	BROWN, DAVID	NYG 830	324												
			335	RYPIEN, MARK	N/A 810	325												

Positions and salaries, as listed here, remain the same all season!



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Only players listed on this page can be placed in your starting lineup this season!

Entries must be phoned or faxed by 9 PM Saturday, September 2, 1995

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Entries must be phoned or faxed by 9 PM Saturday, September 2, 1995

All salaries are in 000's. Players not listed on this page must be placed on taxi squad-Salary 750. The player's team is based on team as of May 7, 1995

I. Team Owner Information			II. Starting Team			III. Taxi Squad		
Name _____			Feel free to enlarge or use a separate piece of paper			Id _____ Name _____ Salary _____		
Team Name _____			Pos	Id	Name	Salary	Id	Name
Address _____			K		RB		1	
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____			K		TE		2	
Phone _____			QB		TE		3	
MC/VISA _____ Exp _____			QB		WR		4	
S99 Challenge Entry (\$79 or \$89 if early)			QB		WR		5	
Additional Entries _____ x \$79.00 = _____			RB		WR		6	
Weekly Reports _____ x \$10.00 = _____			RB		WR		7	
Additional Address _____ x \$10.00 = _____			RB		WR		8	
TOTAL PAYMENT _____			RB		WR		9	
Have you played a TSN Challenge before? _____			RB		WR		10	
If yes, account number _____			Total Team Salary (cannot exceed \$30,000,000) \$ _____					

would create the greatest rivalry and friendship in SWC history.

"People that know us both don't know how we get along so well," Royal said. "Our personalities are completely different."

Royal, who is laid-back, folksy and a friend of Austin's country-music scene, and Broyles, a driven man still running Arkansas' sports pursuits as athletic director, vacation together every year. Even during the heat of their rivalry, when either Texas or Arkansas won all but two SWC titles from 1959-73, they remained close. When one would return home after playing the other, they'd often talk by telephone the same night.

"We never discussed the games," Royal said. "Not until we quit coaching, anyway." Fittingly, they retired as coaches at the same time—after the 1976 season.

The rivalry hit its peak in 1969, when the Longhorns and Razorbacks played in Fayetteville for the inside track to the national title. Texas, trailing 14-0 entering the fourth quarter, won, 15-14, and Royal, the good friend, knows better than to bring it up. Asked if he and Broyles have ever discussed it, Royal said, "No ... no."

The first team to cut into Texas' and Arkansas' championship line was SMU, in 1966, when the Mustangs would change the complexion of the SWC forever.

SMU's Jerry Levias was the second black man to play football in the SWC, a couple of weeks behind Baylor's John Westbrook. But Levias was the league's first black star. Until Hayden Fry recruited Levias for the Mustangs, black players like Bubba Smith and Mel Farr from Levias' hometown of Beaumont left Texas for other universities.

They had no choice.

"I always heard there was a gentlemen's agreement in the SWC not to recruit any blacks," Levias said, "and that was one of the reasons Hayden wasn't too popular."

Lvias was All-SWC as a sophomore receiver and a consensus All-America as a senior. He also was an academic All-America and was graduated in four years. He was the perfect black role model in the 1960s: great player, great student.

He thinks he was just naive.

"I didn't realize you had to have steel drawers when you went in," Levias said. "It all came to me as a shock, because my parents had pretty much sheltered me. I got it from my own teammates."

"Some of it was just hard competition, and some of them just liked to call me 'jungle bunny.' I remember the first guy to spit in my face, and the last guy. But you couldn't do anything about it when you were the only black guy on the field and there were 21 whites out there."

Lvias' success, and SMU's SWC title in '66, quickly helped to change that racial makeup.

"It was like a miracle season," Levias said. "The good Lord had a hand in it, I think."

Eight years passed before there was more divine intervention for a church school. Baylor's "Miracle on the Brazos" in 1974 ended Texas' domination of the league and brought about the free-for-all that the league has become for most of the past 20 years.

Teaff considered Texas, 100 miles down the road from Waco, his foremost rival. Beating the Longhorns in '74 was a benchmark for Baylor, though the Bears' most famous victory over the Longhorns likely came in 1978, when Teaff warmed up his team with the story of two Eskimo fishermen. One was not faring as well as the other and asked his partner why. Pulling a wiggly creature from his mouth, the successful fisherman said, "You've got to keep your worm warm."

At that point, Teaff produced a worm and dropped it into his mouth. His players went screaming out the door and wiped out the Longhorns, 38-14, earning Teaff the reputation as a motivational genius.

Teaff didn't really eat the worm, or even swallow it. He spit it out after his players left.

"I pray on a daily basis," Teaff said of the worm incident, "that my legacy won't be that."

Teaff will be better remembered in Texas as one who proved it was possible to win at a private school. Of the SWC's four privates, only Baylor was invited to join the Big 12, proof of how far Teaff brought the Bears. He joined beleaguered Baylor when the SWC still was a football power, at the expense of everything else. He recalled one former SWC commissioner being asked if he planned to attend the league's basketball opener that night.

"You mean they're playing that stuff again?" the commissioner asked.

One of Teaff's most poignant memories was Royal's reaction to Baylor's 34-24 victory over the Longhorns in '74. Royal asked to speak to Teaff's players in the locker room. He told them he thought they could win the SWC, and should.

"He could have said it was a big fluke and held his nose up in the air, like a lot of coaches would have," Teaff said.

More often than not, the relations between SWC brethren were a bit strained.

The Texas A&M-Baylor rivalry got so out of hand that officials from the two schools—an hour apart on Highway 6—halted the series from 1927-30. Feelings already were tense, reportedly because cadets from Texas A&M's (then) all-male campus raided Waco in search of dates. Women were at the center of the problem at Baylor's 1926 homecoming game, when they came out riding in the back of a pickup carrying placards inscribed with scores of previous Baylor victories over the Aggies.

Here the story muddles. Baylor eyewitnesses said that one or more cadets bolted from the bleachers and dived into the truck, scattering women and placards. After reports of the incident, an Aggie wrote a letter to Baylor officials protesting

that corpsmen never would attack a woman. The corpsmen must have figured the people in the truck were men in drag, the writer contended, or at least not anyone they had dated recently.

No matter what the cadets' intentions were, what followed was one of the worst scenes in SWC history.

"I pray to the Lord that I may never again witness anything like it," wrote A.T. Moses of San Antonio, who at the time was a 17-year-old Baylor student. Moses said most of the Baylor men and the cadets fused into a chair-swinging melee, with the Aggie band providing musical accompaniment.

The Aggies' band director thought he could regain control by playing the national anthem. But he was well into the third stan-



The demise of the SWC "doesn't ring right" with Sammy Baugh, who helped put the league on the map with his passing exploits for Texas Christian a half-century ago. Baugh says it all comes down to money.

za before anyone came to attention.

The result of the fracas was the death of one cadet and the decision to suspend the series.

The SWC, whose original members included Oklahoma and Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State), still was going through its growing pains in those years. No league champion had been recognized in 1916 or 1918, and the SWC didn't even play a round-robin format until 1934. But the next season, the conference catapulted to national prominence.

In 1935, five SWC players made All-America teams, all from either TCU or SMU. Baugh was the featured performer in a league billed as an "aerial circus." TCU's Dutch Meyer—"Dutch did things nobody

Continued

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else was doing," Baugh said of his coach—gave Baugh free rein with the offense. He did what he wanted, whenever he wanted.

Baugh didn't care for football east of the Mississippi when he was at TCU, and he's sure the feeling was mutual. There was little news of East Coast football in Texas newspapers, and Baugh's exploits were among the first to reach the East Coast from the SWC.

The 1935 game between SMU and Baugh's TCU team, both undefeated and vying for a Rose Bowl berth, changed almost everyone's thinking. Grantland Rice, who watched SMU win, 20-14, when the Mustangs faked a punt and completed a touchdown pass, wrote: "This was one of the greatest games ever played in the 60-year history of the nation's finest college sport. In the most desperate game this season has known from coast to coast, Southern Methodist beat Texas Christian and thereby carved a clearcut highway right into the middle of the Rose Bowl beyond any argument ... a swirl of action that no other section of the country could approach ... the climax game of 1935."

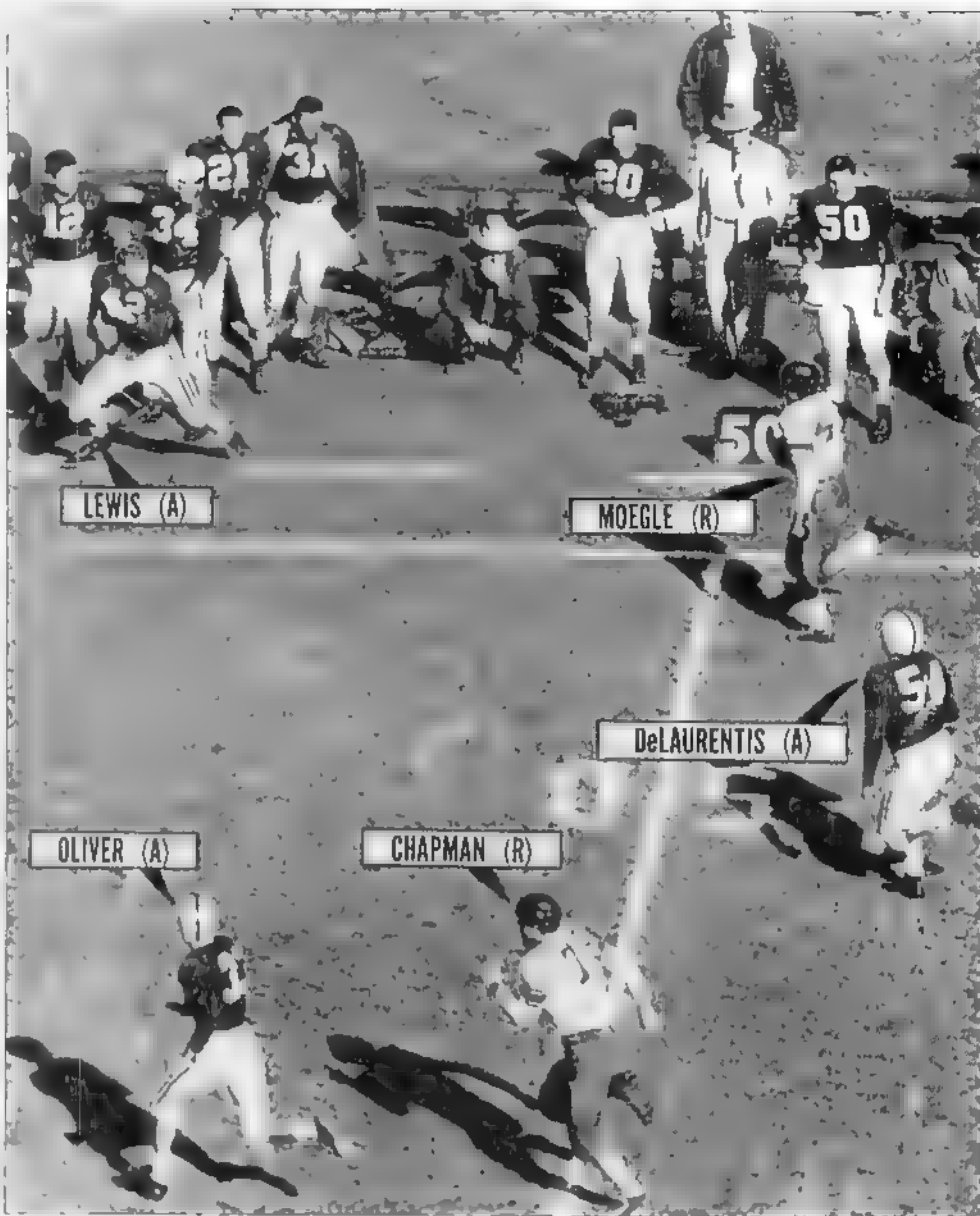
Baugh, always more excited about the sight of his cattle and horses than headlines and defensive lines, wasn't overwhelmed by the 1935 game. But he conceded its effect. It furthered Dallas oilman J. Curtis Sanford's idea for a Cotton Bowl game (it made its debut on January 1, 1937) and, with the media taking note of the SWC, set the stage for the league's back-to-back national crowns at the end of the decade.

Baugh's dominance of pro football kept the SWC in the spotlight through the early 1950s, with considerable help in the 1940s from two former Dallas high school (Highland Park) teammates, SMU's Walker and Texas' Layne. Walker, a three-time consensus All-America, won the Heisman Trophy in 1948, though it took awhile for Texans to understand the prestige the trophy carried.

"I'm not sure anybody had a feel for the Heisman Trophy back then except the people back East," Walker said. "I'm not sure the media here knew a lot about it."

Texas media would learn a lot about the trophy, though. Texas A&M's Crow won it in 1957, Texas' Campbell in 1977 and Houston's Ware in 1989. TCU's O'Brien had carted off the prize in 1938.

But by the time Ware won it for running the Cougars' frenetic offense, the league already was feeling faint. Sanctions-racked SMU, fielding a team for the first time since 1986, was finding it difficult to compete. And all but three of the SWC football programs were hit with penalties of some sort in the 1980s. The league's image was plum-



Some players excel at coming off the bench, but Alabama's Tommy Lewis gave new meaning to the term in the 1954 Cotton Bowl when he bolted from the sideline and knocked down Rice's TD-bound Dicky Maegle (formerly spelled with an "o").

meting.

The SWC had inherent problems, as it was. Beginning in 1960, private schools in the metropolitan areas suffered when both the NFL and the fledgling AFL placed teams in Dallas (the new league's franchise eventually would move to Kansas City) and the AFL also entered the Houston market. Plus, big-league baseball—in the form of the Houston Astros—came along in 1962. The fan base already was splintered because of the proximity of the schools, and the pros drained off further support.

"I don't blame a lot of teams for not wanting to play us at home," Baugh said. "Ohio State's not gonna come down here if you can't fill your stands. If you can't draw, you can't be much of a conference."

Not in the eye of television, anyway. Teaff said he saw the end coming well before it hit. But the realization still is tough to take. On the night he heard of the SWC's death, Teaff was at an NCAA forum in Kansas City. He didn't sleep much that night, he said. He had grown up in the small west Texas town

of Snyder, listening to legendary SWC radio announcer Kern Tips broadcast the great SWC rivalries of the 1950s. Teaff grew up wanting to be a coach because of those games, hearing Tips' authoritarian tones describe TCU's Jim Swink zigzagging around a Texas A&M linebacker, or SMU's Gregg leveling a Texas defensive lineman.

"Some of these schools won't ever be playing each other again," Teaff said. "That's sad."

It is sad, too, Teaff said, that storied football competition—in a league with eight schools from one state—will cease to exist after one more go-round in 1995. He understands the reasons, though, and believes as most do that it's for the best. Better to move on, he said. Better to get with the times, forge new allegiances, raise new banners.

"You can't look back," Teaff said. Sometimes, you should. ♦

Kevin Sherrington is a sportswriter for the Dallas Morning News.

One more bow for 'Bambi,' Doak and gang

The raucous, long-running show called Southwest Conference football, once the subject of rave reviews, will close down after the 1995 season. As the lights begin to dim, a curtain call by some of the league's leading players seems appropriate.

- **Lance Alworth, Arkansas, 1959-61.** Alworth, who played halfback for the Razorbacks, won All-America honors in 1961. The Hogs were 25-8 in Alworth's three years, going to bowls each season. "Bambi," who also punted and returned kicks for Arkansas, later was a star wide receiver for the San Diego Chargers.

- **Donny Anderson, Texas Tech, 1963-65.** Anderson, a running back, was a consensus All-America in 1965. Known as the Red Raiders' "Golden Palomino," he led the nation in all-purpose yardage in 1964. When he signed with Green Bay in 1966, Anderson became the highest-paid rookie in pro football history.

- **Sammy Baugh, TCU, 1934-36.** Baugh, a quarterback who also punted and played some defensive back, was a consensus All-America as a senior. Considered the first of the great college passers, "Slingin' Sammy" guided the Horned Frogs to 29 victories in three seasons and later played 16 years in the NFL.

- **Hub Bechtol, Texas, 1944-46.** Bechtol, a defensive end, was a consensus All-America in 1945 and '46. A member of the College Football Hall of Fame, he helped the Longhorns to a No. 10 national ranking in '45.

- **Earl Campbell, Texas, 1974-77.** Campbell, a running back, was the Heisman Trophy winner in '77, when he rushed for 1,744 yards and scored 19 touchdowns. The "Tyler Rose" had 10 100-yard games in '77, when the Longhorns were unbeaten until losing, 38-10, to Notre Dame in the Cotton Bowl. Campbell played eight years in the NFL and is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

- **John David Crow, Texas A&M, 1955-57.** Crow, a running back, won the Heisman in 1957, the only Bear Bryant-coached player so honored. He led the Aggies to an undefeated season in 1956 and played 11 years in the NFL.

- **Eric Dickerson, SMU, 1979-82.** Dickerson, a tailback, finished third in the Heisman voting in 1982, when he paced the Mustangs to an 11-0-1 record and a No. 2 ranking. Dickerson, who teamed with Craig James in the "Pony Express" backfield, is SMU's all-time leading rusher and is third in SWC history with 4,450 yards.

- **E.J. Holub, Texas Tech, 1958-60.** Holub, a center/linebacker, was an All-America in 1959 and '60. Holub was the star player on Red Raider teams that won only 10 of 30 games in his three seasons.

- **John Kimbrough, Texas A&M, 1938-40.** Kimbrough, a running back who later became a Texas state legislator, finished fifth in the Heisman voting in 1939 and second in 1940. "Jarin' John" helped the Aggies to their lone national title in 1939.

- **Bobby Layne, Texas, 1944-47.** Layne, a quarterback, was a consensus All-America in 1947 and a consensus All-SWC pick four times. In his final three years as a starter, the Longhorns went 28-4. Layne later enjoyed a long and colorful NFL career. Layne and Doak Walker were high school teammates in Dallas.

- **Bob Lilly, TCU, 1958-60.** Lilly, a defensive tackle, was known as the "Purple Cloud" for the havoc he wreaked as a purple-clad Horned Frog. A consensus All-America in '60, Lilly was a force on TCU teams that played in the Cotton and Bluebonnet bowls after the '58 and '59 seasons. The Dallas Cowboys made him the first draft choice in their history, and Lilly went on to a Hall of Fame career as a pro.

- **Dicky Maegle, Rice, 1953-54.** Maegle, a halfback, was a consensus All-America in 1954. He is the third-leading rusher in school history and ran for a school-record 265 yards in the 1954 Cotton Bowl. Maegle is perhaps best-known for the famed "bench tackle" in that Cotton Bowl; Alabama's Tommy Lewis came off the bench to tackle Maegle at Alabama's 40 as Maegle was streaking toward a 95-yard touchdown run. (Maegle was awarded the final 40 yards for a score.)

- **Don Meredith, SMU, 1957-59.** Meredith, a quarterback, was an All-America in 1958 and '59 and is a College Football Hall



"Pony Express" star Eric Dickerson made his appointed rounds—and then some (4,450 yards).

of Fame inductee. "Dandy Don" later quarterbacked the Dallas Cowboys and became a fixture on *Monday Night Football*.

- **Tommy Nobis, Texas, 1963-65.** Nobis, a guard/linebacker, won the Outland Trophy in 1965. Nobis was a key performer on the 1963 Texas team that captured the school's first national title. Nobis was the first pick in the 1966 NFL draft, by the Atlanta Falcons.

- **Davey O'Brien, TCU, 1936-38.** O'Brien, a quarterback, won the Heisman in 1938 when he threw 19 touchdown passes and paced the

Horned Frogs to the national championship. "L'il Davey" was just 5-foot-7 and 140 pounds.

- **Lloyd Phillips, Arkansas, 1964-66.** Phillips, a defensive tackle, was a consensus All-America in 1965 and '66. He won the Outland Trophy in '66, giving the SWC its third such recipient in four seasons (following Texas' Scott Appleton in '63 and Nobis in '65). The Hogs were 11-0 and ranked No. 2 in 1964 and were unbeaten in '65 until losing to LSU in the Cotton Bowl.

- **Kenneth Sims, Texas, 1978-81.** Sims, a defensive tackle, was a consensus All-America in 1980 and 1981. He helped the Longhorns to a No. 2 ranking in one poll in 1981, a year in which he won the Lombardi Award. Sims was the first pick in the 1982 NFL draft, by the New England Patriots.

- **Mike Singletary, Baylor, 1977-80.** Singletary, a linebacker, was a consensus All-America in 1979 and '80. Despite playing just one year in the '80s, he was named the SWC's Defensive Player of the Decade. He had an amazing 232 tackles in 1978 and later enjoyed an illustrious career with the Chicago Bears.

- **Jerry Sisemore, Texas, 1970-72.** Sisemore, an offensive tackle, was a consensus All-America in 1971 and '72 and is considered by some to be the league's best offensive lineman ever. Sisemore was a key component of the 1970 Longhorns team that finished atop the UPI's final poll.

- **Jim Swink, TCU, 1954-56.** Swink, a halfback, rushed for 1,283 yards and averaged 8.2 yards per carry in 1955, sparking the Horned Frogs to nine victories. He was a consensus All-America that season and runner-up in the Heisman voting. Swink gained 6.3 yards per rushing attempt in his TCU career.

- **Doak Walker, SMU, 1945, '47-49.** Walker, a halfback, captured the Heisman as a junior in 1948 and was third in the voting as both a sophomore and a senior. A four-time All-SWC selection, he was a three-time consensus All-America (1947-49).

- **Andre Ware, Houston, 1987-89.** Ware, a quarterback, won the Heisman in 1989, throwing for a NCAA season-record 4,699 yards and 46 touchdowns. Ware, who was the SWC's Offensive Player of the Decade for the 1980s, set 26 NCAA passing and total-offense records in '89.

- **Wilson Whitley, Houston, 1973-76.** Whitley, a defensive tackle, won the Lombardi Award in 1976. Whitley helped the Cougars to the SWC title that year, the school's first season in the league. Although playing just one year in the SWC, he was named the conference's Defensive Player of the Decade for the 1970s. ♦

1994 TSN ALL-AMERICA TEAMS

FIRST TEAM

Offense

Pos.	Name	School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	Jack Jackson	Florida	5-9/171	Jr.
WR	Michael Westbrook	Colorado	6-4/210	Sr.
TE	Pete Mitchell	Boston College	6-2/238	Sr.
OL	Zach Wiegert	Nebraska	6-5/300	Sr.
OL	Tony Boselli	Southern California	6-8/305	Sr.
OL	Cory Raymer	Wisconsin	6-4/290	Sr.
OL	Korey Stringer	Ohio State	6-5/315	Jr.
OL	Blake Brockermeyer	Texas	6-5/298	Jr.
QB	Kerry Collins	Penn State	6-5/235	Sr.
RB	Rashaan Salaam	Colorado	6-1/210	Jr.
RB	Ki-Jana Carter	Penn State	5-10/212	Jr.

Defense

Pos.	Name	School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DE	Tedy Bruschi	Arizona	6-1/255	Jr.
DT	Warren Sapp	Miami (Fla.)	6-3/284	Jr.
DT	Luther Elliss	Utah	6-6/288	Sr.
DE	Kevin Carter	Florida	6-6/265	Sr.
LB	Dana Howard	Illinois	6-0/235	Sr.
LB	Derrick Brooks	Florida State	6-1/226	Sr.
LB	Stephen Boyd	Boston College	6-1/235	Sr.
CB	Clifton Abraham	Florida State	5-9/185	Sr.
CB	Bobby Taylor	Notre Dame	6-3/201	Jr.
S	Tony Bouie	Arizona	5-10/183	Sr.
S	Greg Myers	Colorado State	6-2/193	Jr.

Special Teams

Pos.	Name	School	Ht./Wt.	Class
KR	Leeland McElroy	Texas A&M	5-11/200	Soph
K	Steve McLaughlin	Arizona	6-1/175	Sr.
P	Todd Sauerbrun	West Virginia	6-0/200	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Offense

Pos.	Name	School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	Frank Sanders	Auburn	6-2/200	Sr.
WR	Bobby Engram	Penn State	5-10/185	Jr.
TE	Kyle Brady	Penn State	6-6/260	Sr.
OL	Brenden Stai	Nebraska	6-4/300	Sr.
OL	Jeff Smith	Tennessee	6-3/310	Jr.
OL	Jeff Hartings	Penn State	6-3/275	Jr.
OL	Reuben Brown	Pittsburgh	6-3/305	Sr.
OL	John Jones	Kansas	6-1/300	Sr.
QB	Eric Zerer	Georgia	6-2/205	Sr.
RB	Napoleon Kaufman	Washington	5-9/185	Sr.
RB	Sherman Williams	Alabama	5-10/193	Sr.

Defense

Pos.	Name	School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DE	Derrick Alexander	Florida State	6-5/282	Jr.
DT	Terry Connealy	Nebraska	6-5/275	Sr.
DT	Chad Eaton	Washington State	6-5/272	Sr.
DE	DeWayne Patterson	Washington State	6-1/248	Sr.
LB	Zach Thomas	Texas Tech	6-0/223	Jr.
LB	Ted Johnson	Colorado	6-4/240	Sr.
LB	Ed Stewart	Nebraska	6-1/215	Sr.
CB	Aaron Beasley	West Virginia	6-0/190	Jr.
CB	Herman O'Berry	Oregon	5-11/180	Sr.
S	Brian Robinson	Auburn	6-3/194	Jr.
S	C J Richardson	Miami (Fla.)	6-1/205	Sr.

Special Teams

Pos.	Name	School	Ht./Wt.	Class
KR	David Dunn	Fresno State	6-3/210	Sr.
K	Michael Proctor	Alabama	5-11/183	Jr.
P	Darren Schager	UCLA	6-0/194	Sr.

TSN Player of the Year— *Rashaan Salaam, RB, Colorado*

TSN Coach of the Year— *Rich Brooks, Oregon*



EASTERN DIVISION

1. FLORIDA

Offensive strengths: When you have visor-clad Steve Spurrier hovering over the offense, it's good. His Gators will score a lot, thanks to a backfield that includes game-breakers like quarterback Danny Wuerffel and tailbacks Fred Taylor and Elijah Williams; there's also a deep receiving corps. Florida's stars should be well-protected, thanks to tackle Jason Odom, center Jeff Mitchell (who moved from guard) and guard Donnie Young.

Offensive weaknesses: Spurrier lost his big-play wide receiver, Jack Jackson, to the NFL. Former walk-on Chris Doering, Florida's top returning receiver, isn't of Jackson's ilk. But the Gators think super sophomore Reidel Anthony can become their new big-play receiver.

Defensive strengths: Ben Hanks and Dexter Daniels anchor a linebacking corps that is the team's best in years. Led by cornerback Anthonie Lott, the secondary will be younger and more adept at stopping the pass. End Mark Campbell anchors a neophyte line.

Defensive weaknesses: End Kevin Carter and tackle Ellis Johnson are off to the pros. That hurts. The lone returning starter on the line is Campbell. Ends Johnnie Church and Cameron Davis must make an impact, along with tackles David Barnard, Keith Council and Ed Chester. Highly touted freshman tackle Reggie McGrew could provide support. The Gators have proven vulnerable to the pass under Spurrier. They can expect more aerial assaults in '95.

Special teams: The Gators will be hard-pressed to replace punter Shayne Edge and kicker Judd Davis, Florida's all-time leading scorer. Bart Edmiston enters fall drills as the No. 1 kicker, while Matt Teague is the leading candidate to punt. But freshman Robert Stevenson is expected to compete for both jobs. Sorola Palmer has averaged 9.9 yards per punt return the past two seasons, but a kickoff return man must emerge.

Key to success: Florida's Fun 'n' Gun Offense usually grabs the headlines. But it's the Gators' defense that usually is the backbone of their clubs under Spurrier. This season is no different, which is why it's imperative a defensive line develops.

Outlook: The Gators will be challenged by a slate that features five SEC road games, making Florida just the second team in league history to face such a challenge. Still, the Gators are loaded with young talent and should win a fourth consecutive Eastern Division title en route to vying for a national championship.

Coach Steve Spurrier says: "I like the makeup of this team. We're counting on more younger guys, but they've got a lot of ability."

CATBOS DATA

Coach: Steve Spurrier (49-12-1, 5 years; 69-25-2 overall, 8 years).

1994 record: 10-2-1 (lost to Florida State in Sugar Bowl). SEC East 8-1/1st.

Key losses: Chris Billie, FB; Kevin Carter, DE; Judd Davis, K; Terry Dean, QB; Shayne Edge, P; Kevin Freeman, LB; Michael Gilmore, FS; Aubrey Hill, WR; Anthony Ingrassia, OT; Jack Jackson, WR (declared for NFL draft); Ellis Johnson, DT; Larry Kennedy, CB; Henry McMillian, DT; David Swan, C.

Starters returning: Offense (6): Jeff Mitchell, C (moved from

SOUTHEASTERN

Conference Rank: 1

By CHARLES HOLLIS

PREDICTIONS

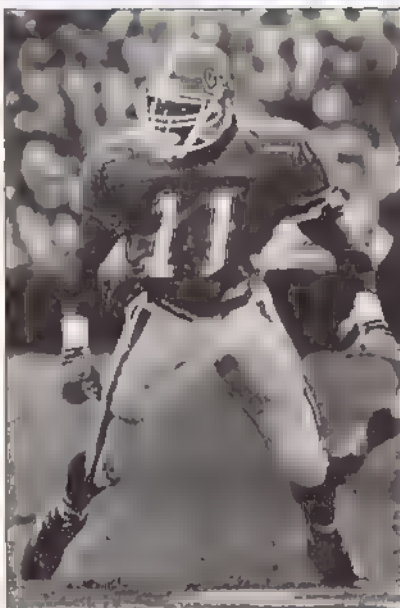
ORDER OF FINISH

EAST

1. FLORIDA
2. TENNESSEE
3. SOUTH CAROLINA
4. GEORGIA
5. VANDERBILT
6. KENTUCKY

WEST

1. ALABAMA
2. AUBURN
3. LOUISIANA STATE
4. ARKANSAS
5. MISSISSIPPI STATE
6. MISSISSIPPI



Ben Hanks is part of a Florida linebacking corps that is the school's best in years.

G): 6-5/282, Jr., Shawn Nunn, TE, 6-3/246, Jr., Jason Odom, T, 6-5/297, Sr., Elijah Williams, TB, 5-10/178, Soph., Danny Wuerffel, QB, 6-2/212, Jr., Donnie Young, G, 6-3/294, Jr. Defense (5): Mark Campbell, E, 6-3/267, Sr., Dexter Daniels, LB, 6-2/240, Sr., Ben Hanks, LB, 6-2/224, Sr., Anthonie Lott, CB, 5-9/189, Jr., Lawrence Wright, SS, 6-1/186, Jr. Kickers: None. Other key returns: Tremayne Allen, TE, Jr. Reidel Anthony, WR, Soph. David Barnard, DT, Sr., Jason Bartley, LB, Sr., James Bates, LB, Jr., Johnnie Church, DE, Sr., Keith Council, DT, Soph.; Cameron Davis, DE, Jr.; Chris Doering, WR, Sr. Reggie Green, G, Sr., Mike Harris, FS, Soph., Ike Hilliard, WR, Soph. Kevin Johnson, C, Sr., Eric Kresser, CB, Jr.; Dwayne Mobley, FB, Jr.; Shea Showers, CB, Jr., Fred Taylor, TB, Soph., Fred Weary, CB, Soph. Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Taylor (171 att. 873 yds., 8 TD); Passing: Wuerffel (212 att. 132 comp., 9 INT, 18 TD, 1,754 yds.); Receiving: Doering (35 rec., 495

yds., 7 TD); Tackler: Hanks (93); Sacker: Campbell (6). Top newcomers: Ed Chester, DT, Fr. (RS); Willie Cohens, LB, Fr. (RS); Mo Collins, OT, Fr. (RS); Tony George, DB, Fr. (RS/back); Jacques Green, WR, Fr. (RS); Reggie McGrew, DT, Fr.; Mike Peterson, SS, Fr. (RS); Robert Stevenson, K/P, Fr. Site: Gainesville, Fla. Stadium: Florida Field (83,000). Last league title won: 1994.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Houston	Oct. 28 —at Georgia
Sept. 9 —at Kentucky	Nov. 4 —Northern Illinois
Sept. 16 —Tennessee	Nov. 11 —at S. Carolina
Sept. 30 —Mississippi	Nov. 18 —Vanderbilt
Oct. 7 —at Louisiana State	Nov. 25 —Florida State
Oct. 14 —at Auburn	

2. TENNESSEE

Offensive strengths: Paced by guard Jeff Smith, center Bubba Miller and tackle Jason Layman, three of the premier linemen in the SEC, the Volunteers' front wall is the envy of many. The continually maturing Peyton Manning, the SEC Freshman of the Year who is 7-1 as a starter, will prove troublesome for foes. He'll throw to a couple of gems in Joey Kent and Nilo Silvan.

Offensive weaknesses: With the departure of James (Little Man) Stewart, the Vols' all-time leading rusher, and Aaron Hayden, Tennessee needs a feature tailback. Junior-college transfer Travis Cozart may be the man. Junior Jay Graham also will compete for carries. The depth behind Manning is shaky.

Defensive strengths: Ends Steve White, a big-play specialist, and Leonard Little, a lightning-quick junior-college transfer, will terrorize quarterbacks. Shane Burton will star at tackle. Scott Galyon, Tennessee's top tackler in '94, and Tyrone Hines anchor the linebacking corps, while free safety Jason Parker and cornerback DeRon Jenkins headline a secondary that coaches want to play more aggressively this season.

Defensive weaknesses: The Vols lack any dominant players. That's been a sore spot among Tennessee fans since Larry Lacewell left as coordinator after the 1991 season.

Special teams: Kicker John Becksvoort will be hard to replace, but the Vols think redshirt freshman Jeff Hall can do a good job. Larry Binion was imported from the junior-college ranks to punt. Silvan, who ranked second in the nation with an 18.1-yard punt return average, will run back kicks along with Shawn Summers.

Keys to success: Manning must stay healthy and build on his freshman success, plus a tailback has to emerge. Tennessee thinks Little will be its big-play stud on defense.

Outlook: With 10 returning starters on defense and lots of exciting talent on offense, Tennessee could challenge Florida for supremacy in the SEC East. But if the Vols have Sugar Bowl hopes, they must figure out how to win at Florida (last win there, 1971) and at Alabama (last win there, 1985). **Coach Phillip Fulmer says:** "He's (Leonard Little) still got a lot to learn, but he's an exciting guy to coach. Those kind of guys have a way of making you a better coach."

WILDLIFE DATA

Coach: Phillip Fulmer (21-6-1, 3 years).

1994 record: 8-4 (beat Virginia Tech in Gator Bowl). SEC East 5-3/2nd.

Key losses: John Becksvoort, K; Aaron Hayden, TB; Tom Hutton, P; Kendrick Jones, WR; Kevin Mays, G; Mose

Continued

PRESEASON ALL-SOUTHEASTERN TEAM

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



DANNY WUERFFEL
QB, Florida



GABE NORTHERN
E, Louisiana State

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE: Kevin Faulk, TE, Louisiana State

DEFENSE: Leonard Little, E, Tennessee

COACH OF THE YEAR

Garry DiNardo, Louisiana State

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	ERIC MOULDS, Mississippi State	6-3/205	Sr
WR	BRIAN HUNTER, Georgia	6-0/187	Sr
TE	DAVID LAFLEUR, Louisiana State	6-7/268	Jr
T	JASON ODOM, Florida	6-5/297	Sr
T	WILLIE ANDERSON, Auburn	6-6/306	Jr
G	JEFF SMITH, Tennessee	6-3/304	Sr
G	ADAM PERRY, Louisiana State	6-3/284	Soph.
C	SHANNON ROUBIQUE, Auburn	6-1/275	Sr
QB	DANNY WUERFFEL, Florida	6-2/212	Jr
RB	STEPHEN DAVIS, Auburn	6-2/228	Sr
RB	ELIJAH WILLIAMS, Florida	5-10/178	Soph

DEFENSE

E	GABE NORTHERN	Louisiana St.	6-3/235	Sr
T	SHANNON BROWN	Alabama	6-5/266	Sr
T	ERIC SULLIVAN	South Carolina	6-2/269	Sr
E	MARK CAMPBELL	Florida	6-3/287	Sr
LB	WAYNE CURRY	Mississippi St.	6-3/248	Jr
LB	RANDALL GODFREY	Georgia	6-3/250	Sr
LB	BEN HANKS	Florida	6-2/224	Sr
CB	DESHEAT TOWNSEND	Alabama	5-10.170	Soph.
CB	TORY JAMES	Louisiana State	6-2/182	Sr
S	JASON PARKER	Tennessee	6-0/188	Sr
S	WALT HARRIS	Mississippi State	6-1/187	Sr

SPECIALISTS

K	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
K	MICHAEL PROCTOR, Alabama	5-11/183	Sr
P	BILL MARINANGEL, Vanderbilt	6-2/215	Jr
KR	EDDIE KENNISON, Louisiana St.	6-0/184	Jr

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	EDDIE KENNISON, Louisiana St.	6-0/184	Jr
WR	REIDEL ANTHONY, Florida	6-0/170	Soph
TE	ANDY FULLER, Auburn	5-2/260	Sr
T	TROY STARK, Georgia	6-0/271	Sr
T	JASON LAYMAN, Tennessee	6-6/287	Sr
G	WILL JACOBS, Vanderbilt	6-5/291	Soph
G	DONNE YOUNG, Florida	6-3/294	Jr
C	BRIAN LAYMAN, Mississippi St.	6-5/278	Sr
QB	PEYTON MANNING, Tennessee	6-5/202	Soph
RB	DOLYNNOCENT, Mississippi	6-1/210	Sr
RB	STANLEY PRITCHETT, S. Carolina	6-1/230	Sr

DEFENSE

E	PHILLIP DANIELS, Georgia	6-6/255	Sr
T	JAMES MANLEY, Vanderbilt	6-4/291	Sr
T	MATT PARKER, Alabama	6-4/275	Sr
E	MARCLUS ADAIR, Arkansas	6-3/234	Sr
LB	MARCELLUS MOSTELLA, Auburn	6-3/228	Jr
LB	DEXTER DANIELS, Florida	6-2/240	Sr
LB	RALPH STATEN, Alabama	6-3/200	Jr
CB	ANTHONY LOTT, Florida	5-9/189	Jr
CB	DE'RON JENKINS, Tennessee	6-0/167	Sr
S	KEVIN ALVIS, Auburn	6-2/200	Soph
S	BEN WASHINGTON, S. Carolina	6-1/190	Soph

SPECIALISTS

K	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
K	KANON PARKMAN, Georgia	5-11/171	Sr
P	MATT WAIT, Arkansas	5-10/227	Soph
KR	NILO S L VAN, Tennessee	5-10/178	Sr

Phillips, RB, James Stewart, TE, Ben Talley, DE
Starters returning: Offense (7): David Horn, TE, 6-4/235, Sr.; Joey Kent, WR, 6-1/184, Jr.; Jason Layman, T, 6-6/287, Sr.; Peyton Manning, QB, 6-5/202, Soph.; Bubba Miller, C, 6-1/285, Sr.; Leslie Ratliffe, T, 6-7/282, Sr.; Jeff Smith, G, 6-3/304, Sr. Defense (10): Raymond Austin, SS, 5-11/181, Jr.; Shane Burton, T, 6-6/268, Sr.; Terry Fair, CB, 5-11/175, Soph.; Scott Galyon, LB, 6-3/227, Sr.; Tyrone Hines, LB, 6-2/228, Jr.; DeRon Jenkins, CB, 6-0/167, Sr.; Jason Parker, FS, 6-0/188, Sr.; Jesse Sanders, LB, 5-11/222, Sr.; Leland Taylor, T, 6-3/285, Jr.; Steve White, E, 6-2/245, Sr. Kickers: None

Other key returnees: Chester Ford, FB, Jr.; Jay Graham, TE, Jr.; David Horn, TE, Sr.; Tori Noel, SS, Soph. (RS/neck), Robert Poole, OT, Soph.; Nilo Silvan, WR/KR, Sr. Benjie Shuler, WR, Soph. (RS/ankle) Shawn Summers, SS/KR, Sr. Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Graham (81 att., 275 yds., 2 TD); Passing: Manning (144 att., 89 comp., 6 INT, 11 TD, 1,141 yds.); Receiving: Kent (36 rec., 470 yds., 4 TD); Tackler: Galyon (93); Sackler: White (7)

Top newcomers: Larry Binion, P, Jr. (JC); Travis Cozart, TE, Soph. (JC); Brian Darden, TE, Fr.; Jeff Hall, K, Fr. (RS) Leonard Little, DE, Jr. (JC)

Site: Knoxville, Tenn. Stadium: Neyland Stadium (91,902)
Last league title won: 1990

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at East Carolina	Oct. 14 —Alabama
Sept. 9 —Georgia	(at Birmingham, Ala.)
Sept. 16 —at Florida	Oct. 28 —South Carolina
Sept. 23 —Mississippi State	Nov. 4 —S. Mississippi
Sept. 30 —Oklahoma State	Nov. 18 —at Kentucky
Oct. 7 —at Arkansas	Nov. 25 —Vanderbilt

3. SOUTH CAROLINA

Offensive strengths: The surprise team of the SEC in '94, South Carolina has firepower in quarterback Steve Taneyhill, who completed a school-record 62.9 percent of his passes, and bruising running back Stanley Pritchett, who can run and catch. The Gamecocks also have one of the biggest and most experienced lines in the league, anchored by tackle James Dexter. **Offensive weaknesses:** Coach Brad Scott,

who learned his offense from Bobby Bowden, needs a tight end and a big-play receiver. Veterans Mike Reddick and Joe Troupe, along with junior-college transfer Duce Staley, will try to replace Brandon Bennett, South Carolina's second all-time leading rusher. The depth at quarterback is unproven.

Defensive strengths: Senior linebackers Hank Campbell, Ronnie Smith and Aubrey Brooks are all-star caliber. Keep an eye on sophomore free safety Ben Washington, who played well as a true freshman.

Defensive weaknesses: Tackle Eric Sullivan, entering his fourth year as a starter, is a run-stuffer, but he'll be surrounded by unproven players up front.

Special teams: Diminutive Reed Morton, who hit 10 of 13 field-goal attempts, has converted his last nine attempts. Punter Derwin Jeffcoat boasts a 38.3-yard career average. Scott would like to see both become more consistent. Return men must be found.

Keys to success: Taneyhill, who cut his ponytail last year and then proceeded to cut up defenses running Scott's motion offense, must be consistent. Taneyhill has enough talent around him to make his final year his best. Plus he has former Florida assistant John Reeves serving as his mentor.

Outlook: To say Scott's rookie season was a rousing success would be an understatement. He led the Gamecocks to their first bowl victory, and there's no reason South Carolina can't advance to another bowl as the players continue to adapt to his system.

Coach Brad Scott says: "We're not even close to being a good football team. Even at the end of last season, we won on heart, a

little bit of scheme and with some individual kids making some big plays."

GAMECOCKS DATA

Coach: Brad Scott (7-5, 1 year)

1994 record: 7-5 (beat West Virginia in Carquest Bowl). SEC East: 4-4/3rd

Key losses: Corey Bell, CB, Brandon Bennett, TE, Toby Calles, WR, Vincent Dinkins, C, Stacy Evans, DE, Boomer Foster, TE, Chris Rumph, DE; David Tumpseed, DT, Tony Watkins, SS

Starters returning: Offense (7): James Dexter, T, 6-6/282, Sr.; Luther Dixon, G, 6-4/279, Sr.; Darvin Herring, G, 6-3/320, Sr.; Darrel Nickow, WR, 5-11/170, Sr.; Stanley Pritchett, FB, 6-1/230, Sr.; Steve Taneyhill, QB, 6-3/205, Sr.; Randy Wheeler, T, 6-3/279, Jr. Defense (6): Aubrey Brooks, LB, 6-0/218, Sr.; Hank Campbell, LB, 6-0/230, Sr.; Ron Neely, CB, 5-9/177, Sr.; Ronnie Smith, LB, 6-0/241, Sr.; Eric Sullivan, T, 6-2/289, Sr.; Ben Washington, FS, 6-1/190, Soph. Kickers (2): Derwin Jeffcoat, P, 6-2/212, Sr.; Reed Morton, K, 5-7/176, Jr.

Other key returnees: Paul Beckwith, C, Soph. Mike Reddick, TE, Sr.; Joe Troupe, TE, Jr.; Travis Whitfield, G, Soph. (RS); Lee Wiggins, CB, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Pritchett (130 att., 801 yds., 8 TD); Passing: Taneyhill (367 att., 231 comp., 8 INT, 19 TD, 2,259 yds.); Receiving: Pritchett (34 rec., 212 yds., 2 TD); Tackler: Brooks (83); Sackler: Brooks (2).

Top newcomers: Rodney Brown, TE, Fr.; Zola Davis, WR, Fr. (RS) Arturo Freeman, DB, Fr.; Patrick Garth, OT, Jr. (JC); Ray Green, FS, Fr.; Jeff Kigore, DB, Fr. (RS); Duce Staley, TE, Jr. (JC); Keri Sullivan, DB, Fr. (RS); Anthony Wright, QB, Fr. (RS) Site: Columbia, S.C. Stadium: Williams-Brice Stadium (72,400)
Last league title won: None

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Georgia	Oct. 14 —at Mississippi St.
Sept. 9 —at Arkansas	Oct. 21 —Vanderbilt
Sept. 16 —Louisiana Tech	Oct. 28 —at Tennessee
Sept. 23 —Kentucky	Nov. 11 —Florida
Sept. 30 —Louisiana State	Nov. 18 —Clemson
Oct. 7 —Kent	

4. GEORGIA

Offensive strengths: Already Georgia's all-time leader in receptions (138), Brice Hunter needs just 299 receiving yards and

one touchdown catch to set two more school marks. Juan Daniels joins Hunter to form a fine pass-catching duo. The line, anchored by guard Resty Beadles and tackles Adam Meadows and Troy Stark, should be formidable.

Offensive weaknesses: It's time to see if sophomore quarterback Mike Bobo can live up to his high school hype. Bobo looked good in the season finale against Georgia Tech, when he came off the bench for injured Eric Zeier and hit 13 of 16 passes for 206 yards and a touchdown to lead the Bulldogs to a 48-10 rout. The running game, which ranked 10th (128.6 yards per game) in the SEC, must improve. The emergence of a runner—maybe Hines Ward—would help.

Defensive strengths: Ray Goff has turned to Joe Kines, the former Alabama and Arkansas defensive coordinator, to run the defense. He has a gift for motivation. Linebacker Randall Godfrey, who needs 40 solo tackles to break the school record, and end Phillip Daniels will come to play every Saturday. Free safety Corey Johnson, one of the surest tacklers on the squad, and cornerback Robert Edwards, perhaps the best athlete on the team, bolster the secondary.

Defensive weaknesses: One of Kines' first goals is to stiffen the run defense, which ranked 11th (205.8 yards per game) in the SEC. He has implemented a 4-3 alignment and hopes nose tackle Travis Stroud, ends Daniels and Derrick Smith and tackles Walter Rouse and Deshay McKeever are stout. Several newcomers will be auditioned.

Special teams: Veteran Kanon Parkman, who paced the SEC with 17 field goals, is one of the best kickers in the nation. Punter Dax Langley, who averaged 39 yards per boot, looks to improve on a surprising 1994.

Key to success: The offense must avoid turnovers. That would give Kines a chance to keep Georgia in any game, as the defense should be sound.

Outlook: The schedule favors the Bulldogs. South Carolina, Alabama, Florida and Auburn have to go to Athens. With an upset or two, Georgia could win eight or nine games and play in a major bowl. But if the Bulldogs can't run or stop the run, it'll be a long year.

Coach Ray Goff says: "I like our players, but I don't like how far we have to go to be a good football team. But I think we've got a chance to be better in some areas than we've been in the past."

BULLDOGS DATA

Coach: Ray Goff (40-28-1, 8 years)

1994 record: 8-4-1 SEC East: 3-4-1/4th.

Key losses: Terrell Davis, RB, Hason Graham, SE; Travis Jones, DT; Will Muschamp, SS; Steve Roberts, G; Matt Storm, DT; James Warner, TE; Carlos Yancy, CB; Eric Zeier, QB

Starters returning: **Offense (6):** Resty Beadles, G, 6-3/278, Jr.; Larry Bowie, RB, 6-0/224, Sr.; Bruce Hunter, WR, 6-0/197, Sr.; Adam Meadows, T, 6-7/272, Jr.; Troy Stark, T, 6-6/271, Sr.; David Weeks, C, 6-6/268, Sr. **Defense (7):** Greg Bright, LB, 6-2/212, Soph.; Phillip Daniels, E, 6-6/255, Sr.; Robert Edwards, CB, 6-2/202, Jr.; Randall Godfrey, LB, 6-3/250, Sr.; Corey Johnson, FS, 5-11/163, Jr.; Travis Stroud, NT, 6-3/270, Soph.; Marcus Williams, LB, 6-1/228, Jr. **Kickers (2):** Dax Langley, P, 6-2/170, Soph.; Kanon Parkman, K, 5-11/171, Sr.

Other key returnees: Mike Bobo, QB, Soph.; Juan Daniels, SE, Jr.; Whit Marshall, LB, Sr.; Deshay McKeever, DT, Sr.; Buster Owens, CB, Sr.; Walter Rouse, DT, Jr.; Derrick Smith, DE, Sr.; Hines Ward, RB, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Ward (77 att., 425 yds., 3 TD); Passing: Bobo (27 att., 17 comp., 0 INT, 1 TD);



Vanderbilt opponents will have a hard time containing defensive tackle James Manley.

325 yds.), Receiving: Hunter (59 rec., 789 yds., 7 TD); Tackler: Johnson (118). Sacks: Frank Watts/Philip Daniels (5). **Top newcomers:** Larry Brown, TE, Fr (RS); Derrick Byrd, LB, Soph. (RS/knee); Keith Drayton, DT, Jr. (JC); Corey Simon, DE, Fr.; Jermaine Smith, DT, Jr. (JC) **Site:** Athens, Ga. **Stadium:** Sanford Stadium (86,117) **Last league title won:** 1982

Sept. 2 —South Carolina	Oct. 14 —at Vanderbilt
Sept. 9 —at Tennessee	Oct. 21 —Kentucky
Sept. 16 —New Mexico State	Oct. 28 —Florida
Sept. 23 —at Mississippi	Nov. 11 —Auburn
Sept. 30 —Alabama	Nov. 23 —at Georgia Tech
Oct. 7 —at Clemson	

5. VANDERBILT

Offensive strengths: Vanderbilt could run last season, when it ranked 16th in the nation by averaging 226.6 yards per game. Tailback Jermaine Johnson, who ran for a team-high 877 yards as a sophomore, is back, along with Cliff Deese. Will Jacobs is a standout guard.

Offensive weaknesses: A longtime NFL coach whose staff also boasts lots of pro experience, Rod Dowhower is scrapping the option-oriented attack Gerry DiNardo employed the previous four seasons. The transition will take time. Entering fall drills, Ronnie Gordon, who wasn't much of a passing threat last season, and Damian Allen, who didn't letter in 1994, are battling for the quarterback job in Dowhower's pro-style attack. In addition to finding a signal-caller, the Commodores need to find some pass-catchers, not a hot commodity in an option attack.

Defensive strengths: Defensive coordinator Woody Widenhofer helped design Pittsburgh's vaunted "Steel Curtain" that ruled the NFL in the 1970s. He has 10 returning starters, including star tackle James Manley and standout end Brian Boykin, to build his 4-3 alignment around.

Defensive weaknesses: The Commodores don't force many turnovers. That usually means the defense is on the field a long time. And that usually means trouble.

Special teams: Bill Marinangel is the SEC's top returning punter, having averaged 40.8 yards per boot. Steve Yenner was

a woeful 5 of 13 on field-goal attempts. The Commodores' return game, the SEC's worst, must improve.

Keys to success: This is supposed to be Vandy's year, or that was what DiNardo was thinking when he left for Louisiana State. For a change, there's speed, quickness and talent in Nashville. Now the players must adapt to the pro-style philosophy of Dowhower, who served as quarterbacks coach for the Cleveland Browns last season. The players better catch on quick.

Outlook: Vanderbilt will discover how good it is quickly, as it opens against bowl teams Alabama, Notre Dame and Texas Christian. The Commodores close at Florida and at Tennessee. It looks like another losing season in Music City.

Coach Rod Dowhower says: "Are we coordinated right now? No. Is everybody on the same page? No. But we are adding to the pages, so to speak, and we're a little bit more in concert as we go along."

COMMODORES DATA

Coach: Rod Dowhower (1st year; 5-5-1 overall, 1 year)

1994 record: 5-5 SEC East: 2-6/5th

Key losses: Gabe Banks, WR, Gerald Collins, LB; Bryan Josey, DT; Eric Lewis, FB; Richard Saenz, C

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Robert Couch, T, 6-6/295, Sr.; Ronnie Gordon, QB, 6-1/193, Jr.; Will Jacobs, G, 6-5/291, Soph.; Jermaine Johnson, TB, 5-7/178, Jr.; Owen (Tank) Nvel, G, 6-5/302, Sr.; Kenny Simon, SE, 6-0/193, Sr.; Jason Tomichuk, TE, 6-5/254, Jr. **Defense (10):** Matt Anderson, SS, 5-11/188, Soph.; Anthony Azama, CB, 5-11/172, Soph.; Brian Boykin, E, 6-3/270, Jr.; Corey Charova, CB, 6-1/202, Soph.; Mark Jelcoat, LB, 6-2/224, Jr.; James Manley, T, 6-4/291, Sr.; Matt Schuckman, T, 6-4/260, Jr.; Jay Stallworth, E, 6-2/255, Soph.; Eric Vance, FS, 6-4/217, Jr.; Kirk Williams, LB, 6-0/228, Jr. **Kickers (2):** Bill Marinangel, P, 6-2/215, Jr.; Steve Yenner, K, 6-0/173, Sr.

Other key returnees: Damian Allen, QB, Soph.; Cliff Deese, TB, Sr.; Allen DeGratlenred, OT, Jr.; Mike Jones, G, Sr.; Shawn Sluckey, LB, Soph.; Sanford Ware, SE, Sr.; Tyrone Yarbrough, TB, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Johnson (167 att., 877 yds., 7 TD); Passing: Gordon (203 att., 86 comp., 9 INT, 2 TD, 991 yds.); Receiving: Simon (20 rec., 271 yds., 1 TD); Tackler: Vance (79); Sacker: Manley (9).

Top newcomers: Teremy Banks, TE, Fr.; Alvin Duke, WR, Fr.; Hi Lewis, QB, Fr.; Marcus A. Williams, SS, Fr. (RS); Josh Whicker, OL, Fr.

Site: Nashville, Tenn. **Stadium:** Vanderbilt Stadium (41,600) **Last league title won:** None

SEC SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Alabama	Oct. 28 —at Mississippi
Sept. 16 —at Notre Dame	Nov. 4 —Kentucky
Sept. 23 —Texas Christian	Nov. 11 —Louisiana Tech
Sept. 30 —Arkansas	Nov. 18 —at Florida
Oct. 14 —Georgia	Nov. 25 —at Tennessee
Oct. 21 —at South Carolina	

6. KENTUCKY

Offensive strengths: Kentucky boasts a great 1-2 punch at tailback in Moe Williams and Donnell Gordon. The receiving corps, which features Leon Smith, Kio Sanford and Trevor Hypolite, is talented. Guard Barry Jones is the best lineman.

Offensive weaknesses: The Wildcats ranked last in the league in total (279.7 yards per game) and scoring offense (13.6). Quarterbacks Jeff Speedy and Billy Jack Haskins have struggled to learn the multiple offense new coordinator Elliot Uzelac brought with him from Colorado. Whoever plays quarterback would benefit from improved line play.

Defensive strengths: Kentucky returns seven starters, but that may not be a good

Continued

thing when you consider the 'Cats ranked last in the SEC in rushing (272.2 yards per game), total (450.1) and scoring defense (36.8). Regardless, there is some excitement about the return of several key line-backers, including Donte' Key, and most of the secondary.

Defensive weaknesses: This unit lacks size, which means it figures to lack success in the mighty SEC. Kentucky generated an SEC-low 13 takeaways. That has to change. **Special teams:** Sanford, a big-play man, may be the best kick returner in the SEC. Brian Sivinski, who hit 5 of 10 field-goal attempts, may lose his job to a redshirt freshman, Stephan Brown and Brad Wulfeck, both redshirt freshmen, will battle for punting chores.

Keys to success: Offensively, the quarterbacks must get protection and Williams needs room to run. On defense, the Wildcats have to stop the run and generate turnovers. If they can't, they're finished.

Outlook: Coming off an appearance in the Peach Bowl, fans in Lexington were brimming with hope entering 1994. Kentucky won its opener over Louisville and proceeded to collapse, losing its last 10 games. Yes, the Wildcats have only one way to go. But don't expect much progress, though there is some young talent on hand.

Coach Bill Curry says: "We're looking for hard-nosed, aggressive people in every position. We're going to keep the hammer down through the fall and right on into the season."

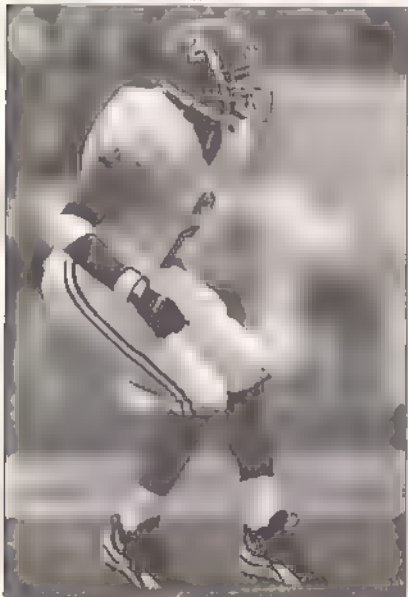
WILDCATS DATA

Coach: Bill Curry (18-36, 5 years; 75-91-4 overall, 15 years)
1994 record: 1-10. SEC East: 0-8/6th.

Key losses: Mark Askin, OT, Howard Carter, DE, Dan Caruthers, C, Damon Hood, FB; Melvin Johnson, FS; Nicky Nickles, P, Aaron Purdie, OT; Clyde Rudolph, FL, Robert Stinson, DT, Roger Sullivan, DT

Starters returning: **Offense (6):** Chris Davis, TE, 6-7/251, Jr.; Barry Jones, G, 6-5/283, Sr.; John Schlaman, C (moved from G), 6-2/276, Soph.; Leon Smith, WR, 5-10/172, Sr.; Jeff Speedy, QB, 6-2/186, Jr.; Moe Williams, TB, 6-2/196, Jr.
Defense (7): Leman Boyd, SS, 5-10/195, Jr.; Steven Hall, CB, 6-1/205, Sr.; Chad Hudson, LB, 6-3/233, Soph.; David Snardon, LB, 6-2/237, Sr.; Kurt Supe, E, 6-3/249, Jr.; Kiyo Wilson, CB, 5-11/198, Jr.; Eric Wright, LB, 5-8/210, Jr.
Kickers (1): Brian Sivinski, K, 5-11/180, Sr.

Other key returnees: Donnell Gordon, TE, Jr.; Billy Jack Haskins, QB, Soph.; Trevor Hypolite, WR, Soph.; Adam Kane, C,



Deshea Townsend is part of a talented-but-inexperienced Alabama secondary.

Jr., Donte' Key, LB, Sr. Ray McLaurin, RB, Jr., Antonio O'Ferral, WR (moved from QB), Sr.; Reggie Rusk, FS, Sr.; Kio Sanford, WR/KR, Soph.; James Tucker, WR (moved from LB), Sr.
Returning statistical leaders: Rushing, Williams (160 att., 805 yds., 4 TD); Passing, Speedy (119 att., 54 comp., 8 INT, 1 TD, 580 yds.); Receiving, Smith (27 rec., 375 yds., 2 TD); Tackler, Snardon (71); Sackler, Supe (3).
Top newcomers: Carey Barlow, G, Fr (RS); Stephan Brown, P, Fr (RS); Kns Comstock, DT, Fr (RS); John Harris, DE, Fr (RS); Mark Jacobs, DT, Fr (RS); Jonas Lening, OT, Fr (RS); Marvin Major, DT, Fr (RS); DeJuan Pringle, LB, Jr. (JC); Victor Rivers, OT, Fr (RS); Joey Sackalt, G, Fr (RS); Anwar Stewart, LB, Fr.; Jeremy Streck, DT, Fr (RS); Jason Thomas, DE, Fr (RS); Ryan Wassel, OT, Fr (RS); Brad Wulfeck, P, Fr (RS).
Sites: Lexington, Ky. **Stadium:** Commonwealth Stadium (57,800).
Last league title won: 1976 (tie)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 — Louisville	Oct. 21 — at Georgia
Sept. 9 — Florida	Oct. 28 — at Mississippi St.
Sept. 16 — at Indiana	Nov. 4 — at Vanderbilt
Sept. 23 — at South Carolina	Nov. 11 — Cincinnati
Sept. 30 — Auburn	Nov. 18 — Tennessee
Oct. 14 — Louisiana State	

WESTERN DIVISION

1. ALABAMA

Offensive strengths: Gene Stallings, quiet by nature, isn't saying too much about his runners and receivers. He is going to let them do the talking in the fall, and Tide fans are going to love what tailback Dennis Riddle and receivers Toderick Malone, Marcell West and Curtis Brown have to say. The line returns only two starters, but plenty of experienced talent is on hand.

Offensive weaknesses: Jay Barker, the winningest quarterback (35-2-1) in school history, has finally graduated. He won because of intangibles. His successor, Brian Burgdorf, can do more things physically. But can he lead? If not, Freddie Kitchens is in the wings. Alabama thinks Riddle will be an adequate replacement for Sherman Williams, but who will take over for fullback Tarrant Lynch?

Defensive strengths: Would you believe the Tide can go 10-deep up front? There's all-star talent in tackles Shannon Brown, Elverett Brown and Matt Parker, as well as end Darrell Blackburn. Linebackers Ralph Staten and John Walters will make life difficult for foes.

Defensive weaknesses: Three-fourths of the secondary is gone. There is talent in Deshea Townsend, Brad Ford, Kevin Jackson and Jeremy Pruitt, but they're relatively inexperienced.

Special teams: Michael Proctor, who hit 13 of 16 field-goal attempts, is the best kicker in Alabama history and one of the best in the nation this season. Hayden Stockton and Daniel Pope are competing to take over for Bryne Diehl, who was one of the SEC's best punters. Malone may star as the Tide's return man.

Keys to success: Burgdorf must prove to be a capable quarterback and a running back must emerge. Teams will try to pass on Alabama, so the secondary must jell quickly.

Outlook: Defensive coordinator Bill Oliver is surrounded by the kind of talent the Crimson Tide boasted on its 1992 national championship team. Offensive coordinator Homer Smith possesses his kind of signal-caller in Burgdorf, who can run the option as well as throw with accuracy. Expect 'Bama to contend for a Sugar Bowl berth.

Coach Gene Stallings says: "We're not ready to play, but we're not supposed to be right now."

CRIMSON TIDE DATA

Coach: Gene Stallings (52-10-1, 5 years, 79-55-2 overall, 12 years)

1994 record: 12-1 (beat Ohio State in Citrus Bowl). SEC West: 8-1/1st.

Key losses: Jay Barker, QB; Bryne Diehl, P, Willie Gaston, FS; Joey Harville, OT; Darrelle Jenkins, DE; Tommy Johnson, CB; Tarrant Lynch, FB; Michael Rogers, LB; Andre Royal, LB; Sam Shade, SS; Jon Stevenson, C; Sherman Williams, TB.

Starters returning: **Offense (5):** Maurice Belser, G, 6-1/285, Sr.; Curtis Brown, SE, 6-2/183, Sr.; John Causey, C, 6-2/262, Jr.; Patrick Hape, TE, 6-4/239, Jr.; Todrick Malone, FB, 5-11/171, Sr. **Defense (5):** Darrell Blackburn, E, 6-3/224, Jr.; Shannon Brown, T, 6-5/266, Sr.; Matt Parker, T, 6-4/275, Sr.; Deshea Townsend, CB, 5-10/170, Soph.; John Walters, LB, 6-2/225, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Michael Proctor, K, 5-11/183, Sr. **Other key returnees:** Vann Bodden, DE, Sr.; Elverett Brown, DT, Sr. (RS/foot); Brian Burgdorf, QB, Sr.; Kendrick Burton, DE, Sr.; Brad Ford, CB, Sr.; Joel Holliday, OT, Soph.; Chad Key, WR, Sr.; Freddie Kitchens, QB, Soph.; Paul Pickelt, LB, Soph.; Ozell Powell, DT, Jr.; Dennis Riddle, TB, Soph.; Dwayne Rudd, LB, Soph.; Cedric Samuel, SS, Jr.; Ralph Staten, LB, Jr.; Brian Steger, TB, Jr.; Eric Turner, FS, Sr.; Marcell West, FL, Jr.; Laron White, G, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing, Steger (38 att., 145 yds., 3 TD); Passing, Burgdorf (13 att., 4 comp., 1 INT, 0 TD, 42 yds.); Receiving, Curtis Brown (39 rec., 639 yds., 8 TD); Tackler, Staten (62); Sackler, Shannon Brown (5).
Top newcomers: Chris Edwards, LB, Fr (RS); Calvin Hall, SE, Fr (RS); Chris Hood, DE, Fr (RS); Kevin Jackson, CB, Jr. (JC); Daniel Pope, P, Fr (RS); Jeremy Pruitt, DB, Jr. (transfer/Middle Tennessee State); Sage Sprue, OT, Fr (RS).
Sites: Tuscaloosa, Ala. **Stadium:** Bryant-Denny Stadium (70,123); Birmingham's Legion Field (83,091).
Last league title won: 1992.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 — at Vanderbilt	Oct. 21 — at Mississippi
Sept. 9 — Southern Mississippi (at Birmingham, Ala.)	Oct. 28 — North Texas
Sept. 16 — Arkansas	Nov. 4 — Louisiana State
Sept. 30 — at Georgia	Nov. 11 — Mississippi St.
Oct. 7 — North Carolina St.	Nov. 18 — at Auburn
Oct. 14 — Tennessee (at Birmingham, Ala.)	

2. AUBURN

Offensive strengths: It all starts with Bobby's boy, Terry, who has his daddy's knack for scoring and winning. He has eight starters back, including bruising tailback Stephen Davis, a Heisman Trophy candidate. Davis will be escorted by an all-star contingent up front, including center Shannon Roubique and tackles Victor Riley and Willie Anderson. Andy Fuller, a fine blocker, is developing into one the SEC's best tight ends. Quarterback Patrick Nix is a quiet leader in the mold of Jay Barker.

Offensive weaknesses: Bowden loves the big play, but he doesn't know who's going to produce them in the passing game now that Frank Sanders is gone. A fullback must emerge, but the Tigers think converted tailback Fred Beasley can do the job.

Defensive strengths: It's almost always the line, but not this year. Headed by Anthony Harris, the leader on defense, and Marcellus Mostella, a super athlete, the linebacking corps is lethal. There is some talent—albeit inexperienced—up front.

Defensive weaknesses: The top five linemen from 1994 are gone, and half of the team's big-play secondary must be replaced. Bobby Daffin and Shannon Suttle look to fill holes on the line. Auburn needs cornerbacks Larry Melton, LaFonzo McLean and Liron Thomas to step in and deliver. Don't be surprised if true freshman Martavious Houston, considered the top

prospect in Florida, plays in the secondary from Day One.

Special teams: Here's where the Tigers are vulnerable. Matt Hawkins connected on 13 of 18 field-goal attempts, but his long was just 45 yards and he hasn't proven he can hit the critical kick. Most coaches don't want their kicker to punt, but Hawkins may have to. It's not likely he'll be able to duplicate the efforts of Terry Daniel, the best punter in the SEC. A newcomer may be Auburn's return specialist.

Keys to success: The secondary and defensive line must develop, but Auburn believes it has capable replacements. But the kicking game may be the Tigers' undoing.

Outlook: If Bowden finds a go-to receiver and defensive coordinator Wayne Hall shores up his front five and the secondary, the Tigers could knock off defending Western Division champion Alabama and advance to the SEC title game. Who knows, Auburn may play in its first Sugar Bowl since the 1988 season. The Tigers' quest for the top is helped by the fact they play Florida and Alabama at home.

Coach Terry Bowden says: "We have to find some answers on defense. We've identified the problem areas; now we've got to solve them. We do that, we can be a good football team."

THIRD DAY

Coach: Terry Bowden (20-1-1, 2 years; 84-37-2 overall, 11 years). 1994 record: 9-1-1. SEC West: 6-1-1/ineligible for league title.

Key losses: Thomas Bailey, WR; Terry Daniel, P; Alonzo Elberidge, DE; Joe Frazier, FB; Mike Pelford, DT; Brian Robinson, FS (declared for NFL draft); Frank Sanders, WR; Chris Shelling, CB; Gary Walker, DT; Willie Whitehead, DE. **Starters returning:** Offense (8): Willie Anderson, T, 6-6/306 lb.; Stephen Davis, TB, 6-2/228 lb.; Andy Fuller, TE, 6-2/260 lb.; Patrick Nix, QB, 6-2/199 lb.; Victor Riley, T, 6-5/310 lb.; Shannon Roubique, C, 6-1/275 lb.; Jason Taylor, G, 6-1/288 lb.; Leonard Thomas, G, 6-2/283 lb. Defense (5): Ken Alves, SS, 6-2/200 lb.; Anthony Harris, LB, 6-2/233 lb.; Dell McGee, CB, 5-8/181 lb.; Jason Meska, LB, 6-2/222 lb.; Marcus Mostella, LB, 6-3/228 lb. Kickers (1): Matt Hawkins, K, 5-10/172 lb.

Other key returnees: Fred Beasley, FB (moved from TB). Soph.: Daymeyune Cragg, QB, Soph.; Bobby Daffin, DE, Soph.; Tyrone Goodson, WR, Soph.; Willie Gosha, WR, Jr.; Larry Melton, CB, Soph.; Harold Morrow, FB, Sr.; Ricky Neal, LB, Soph.; Derrick Robinson, LB, Soph. (RS/knee); Nate Smith, DT, Soph. Shannon Suttle, DT, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Davis (221 att., 1,263 yds., 13 TD); Passing: Nix (299 att., 169 comp., 7 INT, 13 TD, 2,206 yds.); Receiving: Morrow (15 rec., 171 yds., 2 TD); Tackler: Harris (116); Sackler: Scott Stacey (5).

Top newcomers: Kevin Gentle, K, Fr (RS); Martavious Houston, DB, Fr; Leron Thomas, CB, Jr (JC); Eric Hines-Tucker, RB, Jr (JC); Kendal Mack, DT, Fr (RS); LaFonzo McLean, CB, Fr (RS); James Roscoe, DE, Fr (RS); Takeo Spikes, LB, Fr.

Site: Auburn, Ala. Stadium: Jordan-Hare Stadium (85,214). Last league title won: 1989 (he).

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Mississippi	Oct. 21 —W. Michigan
Sept. 9 —UT-Chattanooga	Oct. 28 —Arkansas
Sept. 16 —at Louisiana State	(at Little Rock, Ark.)
Sept. 30 —at Kentucky	Nov. 4 —NE Louisiana
Oct. 5 —Mississippi State	Nov. 11 —at Georgia
Oct. 14 —Florida	Nov. 18 —Alabama

3. LOUISIANA STATE

Offensive strengths: There's plenty of talent, including receiver Eddie Kennison, huge tight end David LaFleur, tailback Robert Toomer and three returning starters on the line. The arrival of native son Kevin Faulk, a tailback who was considered by many to be the top high school player in the nation, has the Bayou buzzing. **Offensive weaknesses:** Coach Gerry

DiNardo, who comes to Baton Rouge after coaching Vanderbilt the past four seasons, and, particularly, new offensive coordinator Morris Watts were able to convince quarterback Jamie Howard to return for his senior year. Now, Howard must become more consistent. LSU lacks depth at fullback and tight end.

Defensive strengths: Ends Gabe Northern, who lives in opponents' backfields, and James Gillyard will play on Sundays. They anchor a line that will be one of the SEC's best. Mike Calais leads an experienced group of linebackers.

Defensive weaknesses: Foes would be advised to attack the gut of Louisiana State's line, which has no depth. There are a couple of big holes to fill in the secondary, but the Tigers think it could develop into a solid unit.

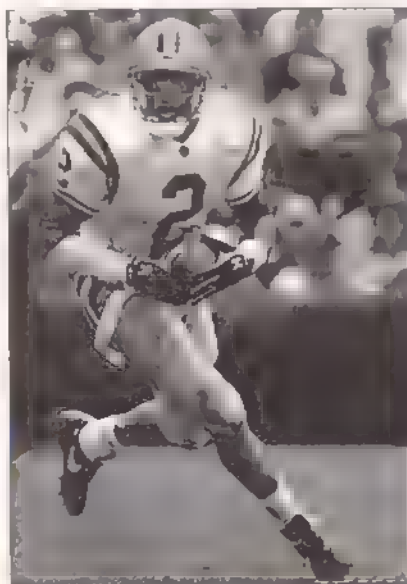
Special teams: When it comes to return men, Kennison ranks among the nation's elite. Kicker Andre' Lafleur, who converted 10 of 14 field-goal attempts and has hit 77.4 percent of his career attempts, and punter Chad Kessler, who averaged 36.7 yards per boot, provide stability.

Keys to success: If DiNardo and his staff can pull the team and community together, this can be a rags-to-riches season. It's ultra-important that Howard gets adequate protection. Nobody knocked the Tigers' talent under former coach Curley Hallman. It was the team's lack of execution (SEC-high 37 turnovers) and strength that posed problems.

Outlook: It may be an overstatement, but the fate of Louisiana State's season may be determined in its first three games: at Texas A&M, at Mississippi State and home against Auburn. With two wins in that stretch, Tiger fans may enjoy their first winning season since 1988.

Coach Gerry DiNardo says: "The best defensive team plays in the (SEC) championship game. We have to bolster confidence in our offense because they lack confidence. On the other hand, our defense thinks they invented the game. We need to show them there is room for improvement."

Continued



Louisiana State wide receiver Eddie Kennison doubles as a deadly return man.

BURNING QUESTION

Why did LSU choose DiNardo as coach?

Louisiana State Athletic Director Joe Dean wanted a man who could do two things in a New York second: turn around the football program and turn around the community.

After LSU finished 4-7 last season, the school's unprecedented sixth consecutive losing campaign, Curley Hallman was out as coach and Gerry DiNardo was in after a search that, for a while, seemed to point toward TCU and its coach, 45-year-old Pat Sullivan.

Dean is convinced LSU hired the right man at the right time: "We've hired a dynamic coach who can rebuild our program and rekindle what we had with our fans. It's a winning combination."

As if to prove Dean right, DiNardo, 42, went out and did something no LSU coach had done in years: sign the best high school prospects in New Orleans. It helped that DiNardo, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native, is Catholic and that he personally recruited the Catholic schools. DiNardo also was able to sign Carencro (La.) High tailback Kevin Faulk, considered by many to be the top high school player in the nation.

When recruiting was over, DiNardo hit the road selling himself to alumni. The school billed his speaking engagements as the "Bring Back The Magic Tour."

It was no small task for a coach who was 18-26 in four years at Vanderbilt, including a 65-0 loss to Tennessee in his final game with the Commodores. In fact, DiNardo, who was an assistant at Colorado for nine years before getting the Vandy job, never posted a winning mark in Nashville.

There were questions at every stop, but DiNardo won over a tough audience.

"I've always been fascinated with Tiger Stadium since I watched Notre Dame play LSU here in 1971," said DiNardo, a guard on the Notre Dame freshman team at the time. He recalls watching LSU whip the Irish, 28-8, from the TV set in his dorm room.

"It's a magical atmosphere on a Saturday night in Tiger Stadium," he said. "Everyone wants to be a part of the very best. I feel a sense of urgency. We need to get the job done."

Before DiNardo won over the LSU faithful, he had to calm a near revolt by players who were loyal to Hallman.

"I think we had a lot of reservations when we first heard about him," wide receiver Eddie Kennison said. "After talking to him, I think he really wants to make this thing work. I think he really cares about us and about winning. That's what we need. We need to stop bleeding and start winning, and he says he'll help us do that."

—CHARLES HOLLIS

TIGER DATA

Coch: Garry DiNardo (1st year; 18-26 overall, 4 years).
1994 record: 4-7 SEC West 3-5/3rd
Key losses: Brett Bech, SE, Mike Blanchard, C; Ivory Hilliard, FS; Nate Miller DT; Marcus Price, OT; Bobby Williams, LB; Rodney Young, CB.
Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Andre Guerin, FB, 6-2/229, Soph.; Jamie Howard, QB, 6-1/206, Sr.; Eddie Kennison, FL/KR, 6-0/184, Jr.; Mark King, G, 6-4/283, Sr.; David LaFleur, TE, 6-7/268, Jr.; Adam Perry, G, 6-3/284, Soph. Robert Toomer, TB, 5-11/218, Sr.; Sean Wells, T, 6-5/278, Jr.
Defense (7): Mike Calas, LB, 6-1/237, Jr.; David Carmona, T, 6-0/272, Soph.; James Galyard, E, 6-3/242, Sr.; Tony James, CB, 6-2/182, Sr.; Clarence Lenton, SS, 5-11/184, Jr.; Gabe Northern, E, 6-3/235, Sr.; Allen Stansberry, LB, 6-1/220, Jr.
Kickers (2): Chad Kessler, P, 6-1/194, Soph.; Andre LaFleur, K, 5-11/178, Sr.
Other key returnees: Ben Bordelon, G, Jr.; Marcus Carmouche, C, Jr.; Tahi Crawford, SS, Sr. (RS/medical); Robert Deshotel, LB, Sr. (RS/medical); Chris Hill, WR, Sr.; Melvin Hill, QB, Soph.; Robert Miller, DT, Jr.; Pat Rogers, LB, Jr.; Jermaine Sharp, TB, Jr.; Jason Smothers, G, Sr.; Robert Thibodeaux, DT, Sr. (RS/neck); Tom Turner, OT, Sr.; Denard Walker, CB, Jr.; Chuck Wiley, DL, Soph.; Sheddric Wilson, FL, Sr.
Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Sharp (135 att., 750 yds., 6 TD); Passing: Howard (274 att., 140 comp., 17 INT, 13 TD, 1,997 yds.); Receiving: Wilson (30 rec., 334 yds., 2 TD); Tackler: Calas (78); Sackler: Northern (11).
Top newcomers: Trey Champagne, OT, Jr. (transfer/Vanderbilt); Kendall Cleveland, TB, Fr. (RS); Kevin Faulk, TB, Fr.; Ryan Thomassie, OL, Fr.
Site: Baton Rouge, La. **Stadium:** Tiger Stadium (79,940)
Last league title won: 1988 (be)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Texas A&M	Oct. 14 —at Kentucky
Sept. 9 —at Mississippi State	Oct. 21 —North Texas
Sept. 16 —Auburn	Nov. 4 —at Alabama
Sept. 23 —Rice	Nov. 11 —Mississippi
Sept. 30 —at South Carolina	Nov. 25 —Arkansas
Oct. 7 —Florida	

4. ARKANSAS

Offensive strengths: With eight starters back, Arkansas has a good nucleus to build around. The depth at tailback and wide receiver is particularly strong. The Razorbacks are excited about receiver J.J. Meadors, tight end Carl Johnson and tailback Oscar Malone. Center Earl Scott and tackle Verl Mitchell are standouts.

Offensive weaknesses: The quarterback position hasn't stabilized in Danny Ford's first two seasons. Returnee Barry Lunney is capable but inconsistent. The line, which caused headaches in 1994, lacks depth.

Defensive strengths: There is nothing wrong with the front four. Noseguard Junior Soli is 290 pounds of brute force who excels against the run. New coordinator Joe Lee Dunn, who loves to blitz, should make this unit fun to watch. He orchestrated some dominating defenses at Mississippi the past three seasons.

Defensive weaknesses: Teams that don't force turnovers usually find winning difficult. The Razorbacks are one of those clubs, finishing minus-eight in turnover ratio in '94. Aside from Mark Smith, the linebackers lack experience. Also, Ford is still looking for playmakers at crunch time.

Special teams: A problem the past two seasons, kicking is a high priority. Last year, Arkansas was a woeful 6 of 15 on field-goal attempts. None was more than 40 yards. Redshirt freshman Quinn Guidry is the leading candidate to kick. Arkansas isn't worried about its punting, thanks to Matt Wait, who averaged 40.6 yards per kick. Madre Hill and Meadors are candidates to return kicks.

Keys to success: With an offense that struggles to score touchdowns, the Hogs



Senior noseguard Junior Soli is a 290-pound force against the run for Arkansas.

need solid kicking. Lunney, who must be consistent, is surrounded by ingredients for success.

Outlook: Ford is coming off the first losing season (4-7) of his career. Don't expect him to endure another one, but don't expect Arkansas to win more than seven games. **Coch Danny Ford says:** "We want to have a high-percentage offense. We had 27 turnovers last year and you don't win many games turning the ball over like we did. That's not the high percentage we're looking for."

RAZORBACKS DATA

Coch: Danny Ford (9-12-1, 2 years; 105-41-5 overall, 13 years)
1994 record: 4-7 SEC West 2-6/4th
Key losses: Pat Baker, G; Carlton Cahn, FB; Lance Ellison, K; Willie Johnson, LB; Carl Kidd, SS; Trent Knapp, LB; Tony Nagy, G; Dean Peavy, CB.
Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Anthony Eubanks, SE, 6-2/194, Soph.; Carl Johnson, TE, 6-2/240, Sr.; Barry Lunney, QB, 6-2/190, Sr.; Oscar Malone, TB, 5-8/193, Sr.; J.J. Meadors, FL, 5-6/153, Sr.; Verl Mitchell, T, 6-4/292, Sr.; Earl Scott, C, 6-2/272, Sr.; Carlos Showers, T, 6-5/289, Jr.
Defense (7): Marcus Adair, E, 6-3/234, Sr.; Geno Bell, T, 6-2/294, Jr.; Tracy Cantiope, CB, 5-10/177, Sr.; Steven Conley, E, 6-5/229, Sr.; Del Delco, FS, 6-0/215, Sr.; Mark Smith, LB, 6-3/244, Jr.; Junior Soli, NG, 6-2/290, Sr.
Kickers (1): Matt Wait, P, 5-10/227, Soph.
Other key returnees: Ken Anderson, DE, Soph.; Dexter Hebert, TB, Soph. (RS/knee); Tyone Henry, FB, Soph.; Madre Hill, TB, Soph.; Mike Nunnerley, SS, Sr.; James Perry, SE, Jr.; Robert Reed, CB, Soph.
Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Malone (89 att., 597 yds., 3 TD); Passing: Lunney (183 att., 101 comp., 6 INT, 11 TD, 1,345 yds.); Receiving: Meadors (43 rec., 613 yds., 5 TD); Tackler: Smith (79); Sackler: Adair, Conley (7).
Top newcomers: Melvin Bradley, LB, Fr. (RS); Marvin Caston, LB, Soph. (Prop 48); Phil Cook, DT, Jr. (JC); Grant Garrett, C, Fr. (RS); Quinn Guidry, K, Fr. (RS); Al Heminger, TE, Fr. (RS); Keith Hopkins, G, Jr. (JC); Anthony Lucas, WR, Soph. (Prop 48).
Site: Fayetteville, Ark. **Stadium:** Razorback Stadium (50,018); Little Rock's War Memorial Stadium (53,727)
Last league title won: None

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at SMU	Oct. 14 —Mississippi
Sept. 9 —South Carolina	(at Memphis, Tenn.)
Sept. 16 —at Alabama	Oct. 28 —Auburn
Sept. 23 —Memphis	(at Little Rock, Ark.)
(at Little Rock, Ark.)	Nov. 4 —Mississippi St.
Sept. 30 —at Vanderbilt	(at Little Rock, Ark.)
Oct. 7 —Tennessee	Nov. 11 —SW Louisiana
	Nov. 25 —at Louisiana St.

5. MISSISSIPPI STATE

Offensive strengths: Receiver Eric Moulds is one of the most exciting big-play men in college football. Chris Jones also is a deadly receiver. They could make quarterback Derrick Taite look good.

Offensive weaknesses: Center Brian Anderson is a stud, but Mississippi State needs to find players to flank him. Keep an eye on tackle Robert Hicks. The Bulldogs' parade of big, bruising running backs is gone. Now, slippery Keffer McGee will be the featured runner.

Defensive strengths: Tackle Larry Williams, along with nose tackle Corey Sears, anchors what should be Mississippi State's best line in years. Inside linebacker Dwayne Curry, an All-America candidate, stuffs the middle.

Defensive weaknesses: The Bulldogs need outside linebackers and help in the secondary, where the coaches have moved All-SEC cornerback Walt Harris to free safety so he can use his speed on a greater area of the field. Michael Lindsey and Conley Earls look to start at outside linebacker.

Special teams: Moulds, who led the nation with an eye-popping 32.8-yard kickoff return average, and McGee will run back kickoffs. Bernard Euell is the punt returner. Tim Rogers, who hit 12 of 20 field-goal attempts, finished last season by kicking a Peach Bowl-record five field goals. But his range is limited. Andy Russ, who kicks off, averaged an SEC-low 38.1 yards per punt, but he has good pooch technique.

Key to success: The Bulldogs are switching from a power team to a finesse squad. That should allow Mississippi State to score more touchdowns. If Taite's talents mesh with the passing attack and he gets protection from a rebuilt line, the Bulldogs could make some noise.

Outlook: Mississippi State's schedule is set up for a quick start. The Bulldogs' fourth game is at Tennessee, where they will discover how good they really are. But don't expect Mississippi State to earn its fourth bowl bid in Jackie Sherrill's fifth season.

Coch Jackie Sherrill says: "We're doing some new things (with the offense)—things we believe will enable us to be a better football team. We've got some players who can make plays—players any coach would love to have."

BULLDOGS DATA

Coch: Jackie Sherrill (25-20-2, 4 years; 130-65-4 overall, 17 years)
1994 record: 6-4 (lost to North Carolina State in Peach Bowl) SEC West 5-3/2nd
Key losses: Andre Barnett, FS; Charlie Davidson, CB; Michael Davis, RB; Scott Gumina, LB; Johnnie Hams, SS; Melvin Hayes, OT; Purvis Hunt, G; Jesse James, OT; Mike James, LB; Wesley Leasy, LB; Fred McCrary, FB; Jimmie Myles, DL; Kendall Watkins, TE; Jason Wisner, G.
Starters returning: **Offense (4):** Brian Anderson, C, 6-5/278, Sr.; Chris Jones, WR, 6-3/202, Sr.; Eric Moulds, WR/KR, 6-3/205, Sr.; Derrick Taite, QB, 6-4/194, Jr.; **Defense (4):** Dwayne Curry, LB, 6-3/248, Jr.; James Grier, T, 6-6/311, Soph.; Walt Hams, FS (moved from CB), 6-1/187, Sr.; Brent Smith, T (will switch to G), 6-6/275, Jr.; **Kickers (2):** Tim Rogers, K, 5-10/169, Sr.; Andy Russ, P, 6-0/186, Jr.
Other key returnees: Brad Ainsworth, G, Jr.; Al Cotton, DL, Sr.; Conley Earls, LB, Soph.; Bernard Euell, CB (moved from WR), Sr.; Nakia Greer, H-Back, Soph.; Robert Hicks, OT, Soph.; Paul Lacoste, LB, Jr.; Michael Lindsey, LB, Jr.; Clay Mack, CB, Sr.; Henry McCann, OT, Jr.; Keffer McGee, RB/KR, Soph.; Corey Sears, NT, Sr.; Larry Williams, DT, Sr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: McGee (15 att., 94 yds., 0 TD); Passing: Tate (220 att., 110 comp., 8 INT, 14 TD, 1,806 yds.); Receiving: Moulds (39 rec., 845 yds., 7 TD); Tackler: Curry (123); Sackler: Williams (5).

Top newcomers: Juran Bolden, DB, Jr. (JC); Eric Brown, DB Jr. (JC); Terry Day, DL, Jr. (JC); Henry Ellis, LB, Jr. (JC); Raymond Gee, DT, Jr. (RS/JC); John Hilliard, DE, Fr.

Site: Starkville, Miss. **Stadium:** Scott Field (40,656)

Last league title won: 1941

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Memphis	Oct. 14 —South Carolina
Sept. 9 —Louisiana State	Oct. 28 —Kentucky
Sept. 16 —at Baylor	Nov. 4 —Arkansas
Sept. 23 —at Tennessee	(at Little Rock, Ark.)
Sept. 30 —NE Louisiana	Nov. 11 —at Alabama
Oct. 5 —at Auburn	Nov. 25 —Mississippi

O. MISSISSIPPI

Offensive strengths: The Rebels' offense could be fun to watch, thanks to quarterback Josh Nelson, fullback Dou Innocent, tight end Kris Mangum and receivers Ta'Boris Fisher and LeMay Thomas. Nelson, who came to Ole Miss from a junior college, has been an especially pleasant surprise.

Offensive weaknesses: While Mississippi is loaded with skill-position players, it's lacking linemen. The Rebels also must improve a ground game that ranked last in the SEC (114 yards per game).

Defensive strengths: Michael Lowery has moved from strong safety to linebacker, which should help returnees Kyle Wicker and Nate Wayne.

Defensive weaknesses: Ole Miss has been tough to score on in the past because of a dominating line and Joe Lee Dunn's blitzing philosophy. But Dunn is now the coordinator at Arkansas and end David

McGowan is the only proven lineman. But defense is the specialty of first-year Coach Tommy Tuberville, who comes to Oxford after serving as Texas A&M's defensive coordinator last season; he has switched the Rebels' alignment from a 3-4 set to a 4-3. Before Texas A&M, Tuberville was a defensive assistant with Miami for eight years.

Special teams: Tim Montz, who hit 12 of 17 field-goal attempts and has never missed an extra point, is one of the league's better kickers. Punter Lonny Calicchio struggled in 1994, ranking 10th in the SEC with a 38.7-yard average. Ole Miss is confident with the group of players it will have running back kickoffs. Fisher again will return punts.

Keys to success: The Rebels have been synonymous with tough defense in recent seasons. If they can find a way to keep the offense on the field, Tuberville may post a winning record. But with Auburn, Georgia and Florida lurking in three of the first four games, it could be a long season in Oxford.

Outlook: Ole Miss begins serving the first year of a four-year NCAA probation. The sanctions had a huge impact on recruiting, which the Rebels won't feel for a few years. It's possible Mississippi could improve its 4-7 record, but don't count on it.

Coach Tommy Tuberville says: "It's going to get tougher before it gets better. If we keep a positive attitude, we can work through (the probation). We'll win games but we've got to stay together and fight through the tough part."

MIAMI

Coach: Tommy Tuberville (1st year)
1994 record: 4-7 SEC West: 2-6 T4th.
Key losses: Antionious Bonner, FS; Akundis Brice, CB; Sid Carmichael, DE; Huck Ferguson, NG; Norman Hand, DT; James Holcombe, OT; Abdul Jackson, LB; Jeff Miller, OT; Roell Preston, WR; Stacy Wilson, DE.

Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Ta'Boris Fisher, WR, 5-8/170, Jr.; Dou Innocent, FB, 6-1/210, Sr.; Boyd Kitchen, T, 6-4/285, Jr.; Kris Mangum, TE, 6-5/255, Jr.; Chris May, G, 6-2/285, Sr.; Darrell Moncus, C, 6-2/280, Sr.; Josh Nelson, QB, 6-3/200, Sr.; LeMay Thomas, WR, 5-10/175, Sr. **Defense (4):** Derek Jones, CB, 5-9/170, Jr.; Michael Lowery, LB (moved from SS), 6-1/215, Sr.; David McGowan, E, 6-2/240, Jr.; Nate Wayne, LB, 6-1/225, Soph. **Kickers (2):** Lonny Calicchio, P, 6-2/230, Sr.; Tim Montz, K, 5-11/182, Jr.

Other key returnees: Ed Fortson, DT, Sr.; Alvin Herman, DE, Sr.; Skip Joyce, OT, Jr.; David Knott, FS, Sr.; Shannon Provencher, G, Jr.; Mark Smith, RB, Sr.; Fred Thomas, CB, Sr.; Orlando Trainer, DT, Jr.; Kyle Wicker, LB, Jr.; Trey Wicker, DE, Sr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Innocent (182 att., 910 yds., 4 TD); Passing: Nelson (308 att., 188 comp., 6 INT, 15 TD, 2,028 yds.); Receiving: Fisher (41 rec., 483 yds., 1 TD); Tackler: Lowery (80); Sackler: McGowan (5.5).

Top newcomers: Alishma Alexander, RB, Fr.; Jason Clingan, WR, Fr.; Darryl Gibbs, DT, Fr. (RS); Tavoris Gilkey, CB, Fr. (RS); Artie Moore, RB, Jr. (RS/transfer-Louisiana State); Tutan Reyes, TE, Fr.; Morris Scott, LB, Fr. (RS); Todd Wade, DL, Fr.; Quentin Wilson, DL, Jr. (JC).

Site: Oxford, Miss. **Stadium:** Vaught-Hemingway Stadium (42,577)

Last league title won: 1963

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Auburn	Oct. 21 —Alabama
Sept. 9 —Indiana State	Oct. 28 —Vanderbilt
Sept. 23 —Georgia	Nov. 4 —at Memphis
Sept. 30 —at Florida	Nov. 11 —at Louisiana St.
Oct. 7 —Tulane	Nov. 25 —at Mississippi St.
Oct. 14 —Arkansas (at Memphis Tenn.)	

Charles Hollis covers the SEC for the Birmingham (Ala.) News.

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SCOUTING THE SEC

Ascending: LSU. Gerry DiNardo will do what no Louisiana State coach has done since Mike Archer in 1988: guide the Tigers to a winning season. The former Vanderbilt coach inherits a team from Curley Hallman that is loaded with talent. **Descending:** Mississippi. Thanks to a four-year NCAA probation, Ole Miss is fading fast. There is no television this year and no bowl possibilities for the next two seasons.

Nightmare schedule: Vanderbilt. What's Vandy thinking? New Coach Rod Dowhower gets welcomed to the SEC by hosting Alabama. The Commodores then travel to Notre Dame before hosting Texas Christian, a '94 bowl team. Vandy closes with a bang, too, traveling to Florida and Tennessee.

Dream schedule: Alabama. The Commodores should hire Alabama's schedule-maker. The Crimson Tide leaves the state just three times, although its final in-state game is at Auburn. Still, 'Bama has a cushy slate. Its toughest road dates are at Georgia on September 30 and at Ole Miss on October 21.

Best matchup of the year: Florida State at Florida, November 25. The last episode saw the Seminoles beat the Gators in the Sugar Bowl. That tilt was supposed to be Steve Spurrier's big moment of redemption after his team blew a 31-3 fourth-quarter lead in the regular-season finale at Tallahassee to finish in an embarrassing 31-31 tie with the Seminoles.

Worst matchup of the year: There are some real clunkers, like North Texas at Alabama on October 28 and Northern Illinois at Florida on November 4. But UT-Chattanooga at Auburn on September 9 takes the cake.

Shocker of the year: Tennessee at Florida, September 16. Look for the Vols to go to The Swamp and push around the Gators. If Spurrier is playing musical chairs with quarterbacks Danny Wuerffel and Eric Kresser, the Vols will win behind improving quarterback Peyton Manning, sensational junior-college runner Travis Cozart and a maturing defense.

Bowl bound: Pencil in Alabama, Florida, Auburn and Tennessee. South Carolina, Georgia, LSU and Arkansas also have a chance.

Biggest shoes to fill: Georgia quarterback Eric Zeier's. Sophomore Mike Bobo is under the gun as he takes over for Zeier, one of the greatest passers in SEC history.

Most underrated player: Mississippi State quarterback Derrick Taite. Taite, a junior, doesn't have many press clippings, but he finished sixth in the SEC and 30th in the nation in passing efficiency (132.7).

Most overrated player: South Carolina quarterback Steve Taneyhill. Yes, Taneyhill cut his trademark ponytail and enjoyed a decent season under Coach

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive backfield:	Auburn
Best wide receivers:	Florida
Best offensive line:	Auburn
Best defensive line:	Alabama
Best linebackers:	Auburn
Best secondary:	Tennessee
Best special teams:	Mississippi State
Hardest hitter:	Gabe Hartman, DE, Louisiana State
Best backup quarterback:	Eric Kresser, Florida
Best pro prospect:	Stephen Davis, TB, Auburn
Best stadium:	Jordan Hare Stadium, Auburn
Best rivalry:	Auburn-Alabama

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. Florida (Best recruit: DT Reggie McGrew). The Gators signed solid groups of inemen and defensive backs, both "need" areas. Bobby Sabershaus was the first nationally recruited QB signed by UF Coach Steve Spurrier.
2. Auburn (DB Marlavious Houston).
3. Tennessee (DE Leonard Little).
4. Alabama (TB Shaun Alexander).
5. Louisiana State (TB Kevin Faulk).
6. Georgia (OT Matt Stinchcomb).
7. South Carolina (LB Eric Rochester).
8. Arkansas (DB Chris Atkins).
9. Mississippi State (DE John Howard).
10. Vanderbilt (QB H. Lewis).
11. Kentucky (WR Kevin Coleman).
12. Mississippi (OL Matt Luke).



Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning will make a run for SEC Player of the Year honors.

Brad Scott in 1994. Even so, good defensive teams seem to exploit Taneyhill more than he exploits them.

Best head coach: Auburn's Terry Bowden. Bowden is 2-0 against Spurrier, whose team has played in the last two Sugar Bowls. Bowden also is 1-1 against Alabama's Gene Stallings, the most important measuring stick on The Plains.

Best coaching staff: Alabama. The Crimson Tide may have the best pair of coordinators this side of the NFL in Bill Oliver, who runs the defense, and Homer Smith, who runs the offense. Also, 'Bama's Mike Dubose has a superlative reputation for teaching defensive linemen.

Coach on the hot seat: Georgia's Ray Goff. Vince Dooley has granted Goff a year to get the Bulldogs' program back to where it was in the late 1980s. If Goff wins a couple of key home games against Alabama and Florida, the job is his until the next public outcry.

Best bets: Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning will make a run for SEC Player of the Year honors. . . . Spurrier will play Captain Hook with his quarterbacks every time his team struggles to score. . . . Reidel Anthony, Ike Hilliard and Jacquez Green will emerge as Florida's big-play receivers. . . . Bill Curry will endure another disastrous season at Kentucky. . . . The SEC will lead the nation in attendance for the 15th consecutive year. . . . Curry will fall to 0-12 against Auburn when the Wildcats host the Tigers on September 30. The streak includes seven losses when he coached at Georgia Tech, three when he was at Alabama and last year's 41-14 loss.

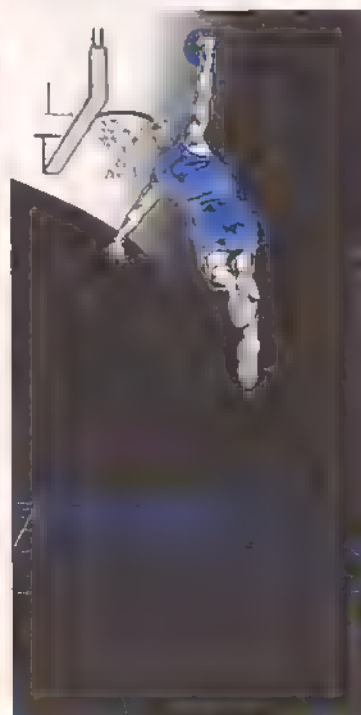
Odds and ends: Florida is looking to become just the second school in SEC history to win three consecutive outright league crowns. Alabama turned the trick from 1977-79. . . . Dowhower has spent much of his career in the NFL, working with the likes of Bill Walsh, Joe Gibbs, Don Coryell and George Seifert. As a result, run-oriented Vandy is about to hit the airways. . . . Talent-rich Florida will have a former walk-on, junior Tremayne Allen, starting at tight end. . . . By finishing 0-8 in the SEC last season, Kentucky has gone winless in league play twice under Curry, who went 0-7 in 1991. . . . Arkansas hasn't posted a winning record in the 1990s. The Razorbacks last finished better than .500 in 1989, when they went 10-2 as a member of the Southwest Conference. . . . Tennessee went from feast to famine at quarterback. Last year, the Vols' depth chart featured Jerry Colquitt, Todd Helton, Brannan Stewart and Manning. Now, Colquitt has graduated, Helton quit to focus on baseball and Stewart transferred to Texas A&M. That leaves Manning and a couple of greenhorns.

—CHARLES HOLLIS



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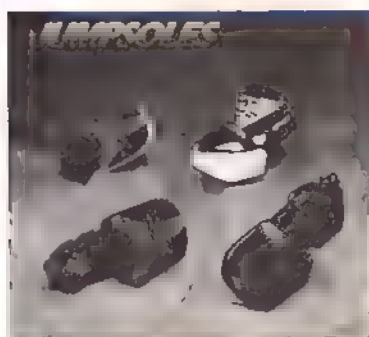
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1. PENN STATE

Offensive strengths: Where to start? Bobby Engram, who won the inaugural Fred Biletnikoff Award as the nation's top receiver, and Freddie Scott are the best receiving tandem in the country. Four starters, including guard Jeff Hartings, return from a line that figures to be the nation's best. Ki-Jana Carter, who paced the Big Ten in rushing and scoring, is gone, but plenty of talent remains in the backfield, including tailback Mike Archie.

Offensive weaknesses: Quarterback Wally Richardson is the likely replacement for Kerry Collins, but he is unproven. Richardson started one game as a freshman in 1992, redshirted in '93 and backed up Collins last season. Keith Olsommer will try to replace star tight end Kyle Brady.

Defensive strengths: Injuries provided opportunities for many players in the secondary last season. The result is that eight players with starting experience return, led by cornerback Brian Miller, who made four interceptions last season while leading the Big Ten with 15 passes broken up.

Defensive weaknesses: The interior line and linebacking corps were hit hard by graduation, so new players must develop quickly. End Todd Atkins and tackle Eric Clair—both seniors—must be solid. Safeties Cliff Dingle and Kim Herring must recover from knee injuries that kept them out of spring practice.

Special teams: Kicker Brett Conway should be one of the nation's best. Last season, he made a school-record 83.3 percent of his field goals (10 of 12) while also setting Big Ten standards in extra points made (62) and attempted (63). Punter Darrell Kania averaged 36.9 yards, but he'll be pushed by redshirt freshman Scott Stephens. Archie and Engram are dangerous return men.

Key to success: Last season, Penn State's offense arguably was one of the best in college football history. The Nittany Lions set 10 school records en route to a perfect season. For Penn State to succeed in 1995, Richardson doesn't need to lead the Nittany Lions to an encore offensive explosion; he merely has to play well. The new defensive starters will have to mature quickly, but the offense should provide enough points to ease the pressure.

Outlook: It's difficult to find a good reason the Nittany Lions won't return to Pasadena. They simply have too many weapons.

Coach Joe Paterno says: "I'm very concerned about our depth. You can't lose Carter, Brady and Collins without having a drop off offensively. I was hoping we'd make it up by being better defensively. We're getting better there, but we're not home yet."

NITTANY LIONS DATA

Coach: Joe Paterno (269-69-3, 29 years)
1994 record: 12-0 (beat Oregon in Rose Bowl). Big Ten: 8-0/1st
Key losses: Kyle Brady, TE; Ki-Jana Carter, TB (declared for NFL draft); Kerry Collins, QB; Brian Gelzeiser, LB; Bucky Goresley, C; Chris Mazyck, DT; Jeff Perry, DE; Tony Pittman, CB; Willie Smith, LB; Vin Stewart, DT; Phil Yeboah-Kodie, LB
Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Keith Conlin, T, 6-7/301, Sr.; Bobby Engram, SE 5-10/165, Sr.; Jeff Hartings, G, 6-3/278, Sr.; Andre Johnson, T, 6-5/295, Sr.; Marco Rivera, G, 6-5/280, Sr.; Freddie Scott, FL, 6-0/186, Jr.; Jon Witman, FB, 6-3/233, Sr. **Defense (4):** Todd Atkins, E, 6-3/247, Sr.; Cliff Dingle, FS, 5-10/184, Sr.; Clint Holes, DB, 6-0/194, Jr.; Brian Miller, CB.

BIG TEN Conference Rank: 2

By MARK MONTIETH

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. PENN STATE
2. MICHIGAN
3. OHIO STATE
4. ILLINOIS
5. WISCONSIN
6. IOWA
7. INDIANA
8. PURDUE
9. MICHIGAN STATE
10. NORTHWESTERN
11. MINNESOTA



Mammoth tackle Jon Runyan is the star of a deep Michigan offensive line.

5-9/178, Jr. **Kickers (2):** Brett Conway, K, 6-2/188, Jr.; Darrell Kania, P, 6-0/165, Sr.

Other key returnees: Mike Archie, TB, Sr.; Eric Clair, DT, Sr.; Jason Collins, DB, Jr.; Kim Herring, FS, Jr.; Wayne Holmes, OT, Sr.; Tony Killens, LB, Sr.; Brian King, FS, Sr.; Brian Milne, FB, Sr.; Brandon Noble, DT, Jr.; Keith Olsommer, TE, Jr.; Stephen Pitts, TB, Sr.; Wally Richardson, QB, Jr.; Chris Snyder, DE, Soph.; Mark Tate, CB, Jr.; David Thomas, DT, Sr.; Barry Tiesch, C, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Archie (52 att., 303 yds., 5 TD); Passing: Richardson (33 att., 18 comp., 0 INT, 0 TD, 177 yds.); Receiving: Engram (52 rec., 1,029 yds., 7 TD); Tackler: Miller (60); Sackler: Atkins (6).

Top newcomers: Curtis Enis, RB, Fr.; Corey Jones, WR, Fr.; Joe Nastasi, WR, Fr. (RS); Scott Stephens, P, Fr. (RS).

Site: State College, Pa. **Stadium:** Beaver Stadium (93,967). **Last league title won:** 1994.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 9 —Texas Tech	Oct. 21 —at Iowa
Sept. 16 —Temple	Oct. 28 —Indiana
Sept. 23 —at Rutgers	Nov. 4 —at Northwestern
Sept. 30 —Wisconsin	Nov. 18 —Michigan
Oct. 7 —Ohio State	Nov. 25 —at Michigan St.
Oct. 14 —at Purdue	

2. MICHIGAN

Offensive strengths: Michigan's receiving corps is one of the nation's best. Amani Toomer (54 catches for a school-record 1,096 yards) is one of college football's biggest stars. Tight end Jay Riemersma (33 catches, 336 yards) is one of the Big Ten's best. Mercury Hayes (36 catches, 589 yards) would be the featured receiver on many teams. Mammoth tackle Jon Runyan and guard Joe Marinaro pace a deep line. It's slashing—Tim Biakabutuka's turn to be the Wolverines' featured runner.

Offensive weaknesses: Who's calling the shots? Quarterback Todd Collins is gone, and only senior Jason Carr has taken a snap. Redshirt freshman Scott Dreisbach enters the fall as the No. 1 quarterback, with sophomore Brian Griese pushing him. Regardless, the next quarterback is unproven.

Defensive strengths: Horn and Zenkewicz. Sounds like a law firm, which is appropriate because these two senior tackles (Jason and Trent) mete out harsh justice to offenders. Horn had a team-high six sacks, caused three fumbles and registered 12 tackles for loss. Zenkewicz had five sacks and a team-high 16 tackles for loss. Jarrett Irons heads a strong linebacking crew.

Defensive weaknesses: Cornerback Ty Law's early departure for the NFL dealt a blow to the secondary, which is led by free safety Chuck Winters and strong safety Clarence Thompson. Mega-recruit Charles Woodson could see action early at corner.

Special teams: Remy Hamilton set school single-season records for field goals (25) and kicking points (101). Punter Kraig Baker averaged just 34.9 yards. Toomer is a deadly punt returner, and Hayes and Seth Smith, who tied for ninth in the nation with a 26-yard average, are elusive kickoff return men. Smith missed the spring as a disciplinary measure.

Key to success: The receiving corps is outstanding, the offensive line is another brick wall with numbers on it and there's enough talent at running back to make Tyrone Wheatley's departure nearly painless. But all this talent will be wasted if a competent quarterback doesn't emerge. Plus, no one knows how the players will react to the sudden off-season resignation of Gary Moeller.

Outlook: The Wolverines have a weird schedule. They agreed to play in the Pigskin Classic against Virginia on August 26 because they got to play it at home, which made them avoid having to open the season at Illinois. Michigan has two open dates as well. But the fate of its season rides on its final two games: at Penn State and home against Ohio State. If the Wolverines win those contests, they could claim the Big Ten. If it stumbles, Michigan may be looking at a third consecutive 7-4 record and second-tier bowl bid.

Interim Coach Lloyd Carr says: "Our kids understand that the tradition at Michigan is special. I think they understand the challenge that awaits them and I think they will respond accordingly."

WOLVERINES DATA

Coach: Lloyd Carr (1st year)
1994 record: 8-4 (beat Colorado State in Holiday Bowl)
Big Ten: 5-3/3rd
Key losses: Todd Collins, QB; Matt Dyson, LB; Che' Foster,

FB (declared for NFL draft); Tony Henderson, MG, Trazelle Jenkins, OT (declared for NFL draft); Deon Johnson, CB, Ty Law, CB (declared for NFL draft); Steve Morrison, LB; Tyrone Wheatley, TB

Starters returning: Offense (7): Thomas Guynes, T/G, 6-5/299, Jr., Mercury Hayes, FL, 5-11/195, Sr.; Joe Mannaro, G, 6-4/290, Sr.; Rod Payne, C, 6-4/288, Jr.; Jay Riemersma, TE, 6-6/252, Sr.; Jon Runyan, T (moved from G), 6-8/299, Jr.; Amani Toomer, SE, 6-4/194, Sr. **Defense (6):** Jason Horn, T, 6-5/277, Sr.; Jamell Irons, ILB, 6-1/231, Jr.; Trevor Pryce, OLB, 6-6/255, Jr.; Clarence Thompson, SS, 6-1/190, Jr.; Chuck Winters, FS, 6-0/192, Jr.; Trent Zenkewicz, T, 6-8/270, Sr. **Kickers (2):** Craig Baker, P, 6-0/168, Soph.; Remy Hamilton, K, 6-0/196, Jr.

Other key returnees: Zach Adams, G, Soph.; Tim Bakabutuka, TB, Jr.; Jason Carr, QB, Sr.; Ed Davis, TB, Sr.; Chris Floyd, TB/FB, Soph.; Brian Griese, QB, Soph.; Woody Harlone, CB, Jr.; Chris Howard, TB/FB, Soph.; Seth Smith, WR/KR, Soph.; Glen Steele, DT/DE, Soph.; Mike Sullivan, OT, Sr.; Rob Swett, ILB, Soph.; Mike Vanderbeek, LB, Jr. (RS/knee)

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Bakabutuka (126 att, 783 yds., 7 TD); Passing: Carr (8 att., 2 comp., 1 INT, 0 TD, 10 yds.); Receiving: Toomer (54 rec., 1,096 yds., 6 TD); Tackler: Irons (115); Sackler: Horn (6).

Top newcomers: Todd Brooks, WR, Fr. (RS); Tyrone Butterfield, WR, Fr. (RS); Mark Campbell, TE, Fr. (RS); Scott Dreesbach, CB, Fr. (RS); Jaquan Feazell, DT, Fr. (RS); Jon Jansen, OT, Fr. (RS); Chris Kurpekis, OT, Soph. (transfer/Notre Dame); Tim Laws, LB, Fr. (RS); Rasheed Simmons, LB, Fr. (RS); Chris Singletary, LB, Fr. (RS); Jerame Tuman, TE, Fr. (RS); Charles Woodson, DB, Fr. **Sitter:** Ann Arbor, Mich. **Stadium:** Michigan Stadium (102,501) **Last league title won:** 1992

SCHEDULE

Aug. 26 —Virginia (Pigskin Cl.)	Oct. 21 —at Indiana
Sept. 2 —at Illinois	Oct. 28 —Minnesota
Sept. 9 —Memphis	Nov. 4 —at Michigan St.
Sept. 16 —at Boston College	Nov. 11 —Purdue
Sept. 30 —Miami (Ohio)	Nov. 18 —at Penn State
Oct. 7 —Northwestern	Nov. 25 —Ohio State

3. OHIO STATE

Offensive strengths: A trio of standouts—quarterback Bobby Hoying, tailback Eddie George and left tackle Orlando Pace—lead a group that includes eight returning starters. Hoying, who is 19-5-1 as a starter, is dangerous on the run and via the air. George can run between the tackles, but he has breakaway speed, too. Pace, the Big Ten's Freshman of the Year, started from Day One and may be something very special. Keep an eye on receiver Dee Miller, a big-time freshman who redshirted last season. Ohio State hopes its offense gets a boost from three new assistants, including former Memphis coach Chuck Stobart.

Offensive weaknesses: Standout receivers Joey Galloway and Chris Sanders, along with All-America tackle Corey Stringer, leave big holes that can't be completely filled this year.

Defensive strengths: Few teams can rival the Buckeyes' line. Big Ten foes haven't figured out how to stop ends Matt Finkes and Mike Vrabel. Both earned first-team All-Big Ten honors last season, when they combined for 23 sacks and 40 tackles for loss. Nose tackle Luke Fickell is entering his third year as a starter. Cornerback Shawn Springs, an exceptional athlete who started every game as a freshman, is a rising star.

Defensive weaknesses: Ohio State's linebacking corps went from one of the nation's best to chaos when Lorenzo Styles and Craig Powell opted to turn pro early. Linebackers Ryan Miller and Jerry

Rudzinski may get a chance to make an impact. Also, three starters must be replaced in the secondary. Look for cornerback Ty Howard, strong safety Damon Moore and free safety Che Bryant to step in. **Special teams:** Kicker Josh Jackson, who hit 14 of 17 field-goal attempts, is accurate. Mike Malfatt kicks off and attempts long field goals, but he was 0 for 4 last year. Aside from replacing Galloway as a return man, the Buckeyes must find a punter.

Keys to success: The offense needs to score a lot of points while the new defenders adapt. The key players must make it through a difficult non-conference schedule without sustaining major injuries.

Outlook: The Buckeyes should match last season's 6-2 league record and go to their seventh consecutive bowl, but they lack the talent to win the title. Aside from a murderous non-league schedule, Ohio State opens conference play at Penn State, which beat the Buckeyes, 63-14, last season, then goes to Wisconsin. Yikes.

Coach John Cooper says: "We lost some very good football players, but we have some talented players ready to take their places."

COACHES DATA

Coach: John Cooper (54-26-4, 7 years, 136-66-6 overall, 18 years)

1994 record: 9-4 (lost to Alabama in Citrus Bowl) Big Ten: 6-2/2nd

Key losses: Joey Galloway, SE, Marlon Kemmer, CB, Tim Patillo, FS, Tito Paul, SS, Craig Powell, LB (declared for NFL)

Continued

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PRESEASON All-Big Ten Team

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE

CHRIS DARKINS
RB Minnesota



DEFENSE

SIMEON RICE
OLB Illinois

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE: Lloyd Abramson, QB, Northwestern
DEFENSE: Charles Woodson, DB, Michigan

COACH OF THE YEAR

Gary Barnett, Northwestern

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name	School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	BOBBY ENGRAM	Penn State	5-10/185	Sr
WR	AMANI TOOMER	Michigan	6-4/194	Sr
TE	JAY R EMERSMA	Michigan	6-6/252	Sr
T	ORLANDO PACE	Ohio State	6-5/320	Soph
T	JON RUANYAN	Michigan	6-8/299	Jr
G	JEFF HARTINGS	Penn State	6-3/278	Sr
G	JOE MARINARO	Michigan	6-4/290	Sr
C	JUAN PORTER	Ohio State	6-4/285	Jr
QB	TONY BANKS	Michigan State	6-6/225	Sr
RB	MIKE ALSTOTT	Purdue	6-1/241	Sr
RB	CHRIS DARKINS	Minnesota	6-1/215	Sr

DEFENSE

E	MIKE VRABEL	Ohio State	6-4/260	Jr
T	JASON HORN	Michigan	6-5/277	Sr
T	TRENT ZENKIEWICZ	Michigan	6-6/270	Sr
E	MATT FINIKES	Ohio State	6-2/258	Jr
LB	SIMEON RICE	Illinois	6-5/243	Sr
LB	PETE MONTY	Wisconsin	6-2/231	Jr
LB	KEVIN HARDY	Illinois	6-4/240	Sr
CB	DEMETRICE MARTIN	Michigan St.	5-9/180	Sr
CB	BRIAN MILLER	Penn State	5-9/178	Jr
S	WILLIAM BENNETT	Northwestern	6-1/190	Sr
S	ANTWOINE PATTON	Illinois	5-11/197	Sr

SPECIALISTS

K	REMY HAMPTON	Michigan	6-0/198	Jr
P	PAUL BURTON	Northwestern	5-11/185	Jr
KR	DERRICK MASON	Michigan State	5-11/185	Jr

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name	School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	JASON DULICK	Illinois	6-5/197	Jr
WR	FREDDIE SCOTT	Penn State	6-0/186	Jr
TE	SCOTT SLUTZKER	Iowa	6-5/239	Sr
T	ANDRE JOHNSON	Penn State	6-5/295	Sr
T	JERRY WUNSCH	Wisconsin	6-6/315	Jr
G	MATT PURDY	Iowa	6-2/270	Sr
G	MARCO RIVERA	Penn State	6-5/280	Sr
C	ROD PAYNE	Michigan	6-4/288	Jr
QB	JOHNNY JOHNSON	Illinois	6-1/208	Sr
RB	EDD E. GEORGE	Ohio State	6-3/227	Sr
RB	ALEX SMITH	Indiana	6-0/202	Soph

DEFENSE

E	TODD ATKINS	Penn State	6-3/247	Sr
T	YAKINI ALLEN	Michigan State	6-2/245	Sr
T	JASON MANIECK	Wisconsin	6-5/290	Sr
E	TAREK SALEH	Wisconsin	6-3/229	Jr
LB	JARRETT RONS	Michigan	6-1/231	Jr
LB	IKE REESE	Michigan State	6-4/218	Soph
LB	ERIC UNKERTZAGT	Wisconsin	6-2/235	Sr
CB	RODNEY HEATH	Minnesota	5-10/170	Jr
CB	SHAWN SPRINGS	Ohio State	5-11/181	Soph
S	ERIC SMEDLEY	Indiana	5-11/195	Sr
S	KIM HERRING	Penn State	6-0/198	Jr

SPECIALISTS

K	BRETT CONWAY	Penn State	6-2/188	Jr
P	NICK GALLERY	Iowa	6-4/225	Jr
KR	RASHON EARLY	Minnesota	6-1/175	Jr

draft), Chna Sanders, FL, Korey Stringer, OT (declared for NFL draft), Lorenzo Styles, LB (declared for NFL draft)
Starters returning: Offense (6): LeShun Daniels, G, 6-2/280, Jr.; Eddie George, TB, 6-3/227, Sr.; Bobby Hoving, QB, 6-4/223, Sr.; D.J. Jones, TE, 6-4/250, Sr.; Orlando Pace, T, 6-5/320, Soph.; Juan Porter, C, 6-4/285, Jr.; Nicky Sulia, FB, 5-11/245, Soph.; Jamie Sumner, G, 6-4/290, Sr. Defense (6): Greg Bollisari, LB, 6-1/230, Jr.; Matt Bonhaus, T, 6-5/285, Sr.; Luke Pickell, NT, 6-4/260, Jr.; Matt Finkes, E, 6-2/258, Jr.; Shawn Springs, CB, 5-11/181, Soph.; Mike Vrabel, E, 6-4/260, Jr. Kickers (2): Mike Malfait, K, 6-3/210, Soph.; Josh Jackson, K, 5-11/162, Jr.
Other key returnees: Rickey Dudley, TE, Sr.; Terry Glenn, FL, Jr.; Eric Gohlstein, OT, Soph.; Ty Howard, CB, Jr.; Ryan Miller, LB, Jr.; Buster Tillman, SE, Jr.; Larry Walden, OT, Soph.
Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: George (261 att., 1,353 yds., 12 TD); Passing: Hoving (274 att., 159 comp., 13 INT, 17 TD, 2,155 yds.); Receiving: Tillman (33 rec., 455 yds., 2 TD); Tackler: Finkes (71); Sackler: Finkes (11)
Top newcomers: Che Bryant, FS, Fr. (RS); Roedell Dupree, LB, Soph. (Prop 48); Dee Miller, WR, Fr. (RS); Joe Montgomery, TB, Soph. (Prop 48); Damon Moore, SS, Fr. (RS); Jerry Rudzinski, LB, Fr. (RS); Steve Wisniewski, TE, Fr. (RS); Columbus, Ohio Stadium (93,103).
Last league title won: 1993 (tie).

SCHEDULE

Aug. 27 —Boston College	Oct. 21 —Purdue
(E Rutherford N.J.)	Oct. 28 —Iowa
Sept. 16 —Washington	Nov. 4 —at Minnesota
Sept. 23 —at Pittsburgh	Nov. 11 —Illinois
Sept. 30 —Notre Dame	Nov. 18 —Indiana
Oct. 7 —at Penn State	Nov. 25 —at Michigan
Oct. 14 —at Wisconsin	

4. ILLINOIS

Offensive strengths: The Illini has the best quarterbacking duo in the conference in Johnny Johnson and Scott Weaver. Johnson's pass-efficiency rating of 137.6 was the second-best in school history. Among returning Big Ten players, only Michigan's Amani Toomer (54) caught more passes than rangy Jason Dulick (52). Ty Douthard and Robert Holcombe are

solid backfield operatives.

Offensive weaknesses: The line has just two returning starters, including center Chris Koerwitz. He must help improve a running game that ranked last in the Big Ten (130.7 yards per game). The departure of Ken Dilger, last season's offensive MVP, leaves a large hole at tight end. But coaches think Matt Cushing can step in.

Defensive strengths: Simeon Rice and Kevin Hardy are the best pair of outside linebackers in the nation. Both are preseason All-Americans who figure to be high first-round picks in the 1996 NFL draft. Strong safety Tyrone Washington and free safety Antwoine Patton, the leader of the defense, are among the Big Ten's best.

Defensive weaknesses: Nose tackle Paul Marshall is the only returning starter on the line. The Illini's run defense could suffer minus Butkus Award winner Dana Howard and John Holecsek; Dennis Stallings and David James will try to fill the voids at inside linebacker. Trevor Starghill and Duane Lyle are the favorites to start at cornerback.

Special teams: Punter Brett Larsen (40.6 average) returns, as does kickoff specialist Bret Scheuplein. One of those two will have to replace the school's all-time leading scorer, Chris Richardson. Marquis Mosely will run back punts, and Damien Platt figures to be Illinois' top kickoff returner.

Key to success: How well Coach Lou Tepper can blend four new assistants, who collectively should have a major impact—particularly offensive coordinator/offensive line coach Paul Schudel, the coach at Ball State the previous 10 seasons. He'll implement a balanced, pro-style offense.

Outlook: Illinois has the look of a low-rank-

ing preseason Top 25 team that can advance in the polls if its lines hold—figuratively speaking, of course. The season opener against Michigan in Champaign will be bigger than big. If the Illini beats the Wolverines and survives a difficult non-conference schedule without major injuries, it'll be poised for an eighth consecutive upper-division finish.

Coach Lou Tepper says: "We'll have 70 percent of the offense in by the fall, and hopefully we can execute that part of it well. The Michigan game is one we've always pointed to. They have an extra week of practice on us and a game, but we've got to use as many positives as we can. The only positive that jumps out is we'll get to see them once before we play."

FIGHTING ILLINI DATA

Coach: Lou Tepper (16-17-1, 3 years).
1994 record: 7-5 (beat East Carolina in Liberty Bowl)
Big Ten: 4-4/75th
Key losses: Derek Allen, G; Chad Copher, DT; Robert Crumpton, CB; Ken Dilger, TE; Jason Edwards, DT; Dana Howard, LB; John Holecsek, LB; Jonathan Kerr, G; Chris Richardson, K; Jasper Strong, SE; Mike Suarez, OT; Scott Turner, CB.
Starters returning: Offense (6): Ken Blackman, T, 6-8/297 Sr.; Ty Douthard, RB, 6-1/208, Jr.; Jason Dulick, FL, 6-5/197 Jr.; Robert Holcombe, TB, 6-3/195, Soph.; Johnny Johnson, QB, 6-1/208, Sr.; Chris Koerwitz, C, 6-2/295, Jr. Defense (5): Kevin Hardy, LB, 6-4/240, Sr.; Paul Marshall, NT, 6-3/254, Jr.; Antwoine Patton, FS, 5-11/197, Sr.; Simeon Rice, LB, 6-5/243, Sr.; Tyrone Washington, SS, 5-11/167, Sr. Kickers (1): Brett Larsen, P, 5-10/204, Sr.
Other key returnees: Cyron Brown, DT, Soph.; Matt Cushing, TE, Soph.; Charles Edwards, G, Sr.; David James, LB, Soph.; Mike Johnson, NT, Sr.; Duane Lyle, CB, Sr.; Tim McCloud, DT, Sr.; Marquis Mosely, WR/KR, Jr.; Damien Platt, RB/KR, Jr.; Bret Scheuplein, K, Soph.; Dennis Stallings, LB, Jr.; Trevor Starghill, CB, Soph.; Scott Weaver, QB, Jr.
Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Douthard (179 att., 765 yds., 9 TD); Passing: Johnson (333 att., 198 comp.,

6 INT 19 TD, 2,495 yds.). Receiving: Dulick (52 rec., 550 yds., 8 TD); Tackler Washington (93); Sacker Rice (16).
Top newcomers: Conrad Adams, TE, Fr. (RS); Mack Jacobs, RB, Soph. (Prop 48); Maurice Lawrence, DT, Jr. (RS/JC); George McDonald, SE, Fr. (RS); Ryan Schau, G, Fr. (RS).
Site: Champaign, Ill. **Stadium:** Memorial Stadium (70,904).
Last league title won: 1990 (tie)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Michigan	Oct. 28 —Northwestern
Sept. 9 —at Oregon	Nov. 4 —at Iowa
Sept. 16 —Arizona	Nov. 11 —at Ohio State
Sept. 23 —East Carolina	Nov. 18 —Minnesota
Oct. 7 —at Indiana	Nov. 25 —at Wisconsin
Oct. 14 —Michigan State	

5. WISCONSIN

Offensive strengths: Darrell Bevell is the winningest quarterback in school history (21-10-2), not to mention the oldest (25 years old) and the best. He has a talented target in sophomore wide receiver Tony Simmons, who set Big Ten freshman records for yardage (588) and touchdown catches (eight). The right side of the line is strong, thanks to tackle Jerry Wunsch and guard Steve Stark.

Offensive weaknesses: The left side of the line must be replaced, along with star running backs Brent Moss and Terrell Fletcher. Replacing Moss and Fletcher seems impossible, but the Badgers have two great prospects in Carl McCullough and Royce Roberson. One of the nation's top prep players, McCullough played sparingly as a freshman in 1993 and redshirted last year. It's time for him to produce college press clippings. Ditto for Roberson, who also arrived in Madison amid massive hype. Wisconsin will look to gigantic Cayetano Castro to fill a colossal hole at left tackle.

Defensive strengths: Linebackers Pete Monty and Eric Unverzagt have pro potential, and end Tarek Saleh and tackle Jason Maniecki earned all-league recognition in their first year as starters. Bryan Jurewicz will team with Saleh to form a strong pass-rushing duo. They'll need to be good to replace tackle Mike Thompson, who left as Wisconsin's all-time sack leader.

Defensive weaknesses: The secondary is starting from scratch, as all four starters and the top reserve are gone. Kevin Huntley, a freshman receiver last season, has first shot at free safety. LaMar

Campbell and Jason Suttle, who each have started one game, are the top candidates at cornerback.

Special teams: How strong is John Hall's leg? Well, 56 percent of his kickoffs weren't returned last season. He also hit 7 of 10 field-goal attempts, including a career-long 51-yarder at Colorado. Hall might punt, too, unless junior-college transfer Brian Alexander delivers as hoped. Wisconsin must find return men.

Key to success: If McCullough and Roberson live up to expectations, they'll offer balance to an attack that could rely too much on Bevell's arm. The balance of Wisconsin's attack will be tested early, as the Badgers open the season at home against Colorado before traveling to Stanford.

Outlook: The Badgers, wildly inconsistent last season, should be more stable this year if Bevell remains healthy. Opening the Big Ten season at Penn State won't help, but look for improvement from last season's 4-3-1 league record.

Coach Barry Alvarez says: "The way we ended last season (three consecutive victories, including 34-20 over Duke in the Hall of Fame Bowl) had a lot to do with how we practiced this spring and should give us a springboard into the season. We've got a wide-eyed group that wants to do things our way. They have a great attitude."

BADGERS DATA

Coach: Barry Alvarez (28-27-2, 5 years)

1994 record: 7-4-1 (beat Duke in Hall of Fame Bowl) Big Ten: 4-3-1/4th

Key losses: Donny Brady, CB; Jamel Brown, SS; J.C. Dawkins, FL; Lee DeRamus, WR (declared for NFL draft); Terrell Fletcher, TB; Kenny Gales, CB; Chris Hein, LB; Jeff Messenger, FS; Brent Moss, TB; Cory Raymer, C; Michael Roan, TE; Joe Rudolph, G; Mike Thompson, DT; Sam Vest, P; Mike Versteeg, OT

Starters returning: **Offense** (5): Darrell Bevell, QB, 6-2/197, Sr.; Ron Johnson, FB, 6-1/220, Sr.; Tony Simmons, FL, 6-2/194, Soph.; Steve Stark, G, 6-3/284, Sr.; Jerry Wunsch, T, 6-6/315, Jr. **Defense** (5): Bryan Jurewicz, E, 6-5/261, Jr.; Jason Maniecki, T, 6-5/290, Sr.; Pete Monty, LB, 6-2/231, Jr.; Tarek Saleh, E, 6-3/229, Jr.; Eric Unverzagt, LB, 6-2/235, Sr. **Kickers** (1): John Hall, K, 6-3/215, Jr.

Other key returnees: LaMar Campbell, CB, Soph.; Cayetano Castro, OT, Jr.; Pete Dastalev, LB, Jr.; Kevin Hurley, WR (will move to FS), Soph.; Carl McCullough, TB, Soph. (RS); Matt Nyquist, TE, Sr.; Royce Roberson, TB, Soph.; Jason Suttle, CB, Soph.; Reggie Torian, FL, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Roberson (59 att., 303 yds., 2 TD); Passing: Bevell (231 att., 139 comp. 10 INT, 17 TD, 1,544 yds.); Receiving: Simmons (22 rec., 588 yds., 8 TD); Tackler: Monty (131); Sacker: Saleh (7).

Top newcomers: Brian Alexander, P, Jr. (JC); Aaron Gibson, OL, Fr.; Cecil Martin, FB, Fr. (RS); Trey Miller, DB, Fr.; Leonard Taylor, SS, Fr. (RS).

Site: Madison, Wis. **Stadium:** Camp Randall Stadium (76,027).
Last league title won: 1993 (tie)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Colorado	Oct. 28 —Michigan State
Sept. 16 —at Stanford	Nov. 4 —at Purdue
Sept. 23 —Southern Methodist	Nov. 11 —at Minnesota
Sept. 30 —at Penn State	Nov. 18 —Iowa
Oct. 14 —Ohio State	Nov. 25 —Illinois
Oct. 21 —at Northwestern	

6. IOWA

Offensive strengths: Sedrick Shaw and Tavian Banks provide a double threat at running back. Shaw became the second sophomore in school history to rush for more than 1,000 yards and Banks averaged 7.3 yards per carry as a freshman. Injuries wreaked havoc with the quarterback spot last year. The misfortune allowed Ryan Driscoll, who started the first six games before his season ended with a shoulder

injury, and Matt Sherman, who was sidelined with a foot injury before starting the last two contests, to see significant duty, which bolsters the team's 1995 prospects. Iowa thinks Scott Slutzker is as good as any tight end in the Big Ten. Guard Matt Purdy and center Casey Wiegmann are the stars of a solid line.

Offensive weaknesses: Major holes must be filled in the receiving corps and at fullback. Utility man Tim Dwight, who played running back, cornerback and on special teams, is being tried at receiver, where he'll join speedy holdovers Demo Odems and Willie Guy. Rodney Filer may start at fullback.

Defensive strengths: The secondary is the backbone of this unit, which boasts plenty of athleticism and depth. Hayden Fry thinks it's the fastest group of defensive backs he has had in Iowa City. Redshirt freshman cornerback Eric Thigpen, considered one of Iowa's top prospects, could start.

Defensive weaknesses: The Hawkeyes, who are moving from a 4-3 to a 5-2 alignment, lack depth along the line. Tackle Chris Webb is good—when healthy—and noseguard Lloyd Bickham has big-play potential. But the root of Iowa's problems in recent seasons has been its inability to stop the run. The Hawkeyes are counting heavily on former prep All-America Vernon Rollins, a redshirt freshman linebacker, and linebacker Marcus Montgomery, a junior-college transfer who had to sit out 1994 because of academic shortcomings, to stiffen the run defense. The return of linebacker Bobby Diaco, the leader of the defense, is welcomed.

Special teams: Nick Gallery has given Iowa something it's lacked in recent seasons: a decent punter. He has a career 41.3-yard average. Brion Hurley, who kicked off all season, assumed field-goal duties at mid-season and finished strong. Regardless, the Hawkeyes (4 of 10 on field goals) must improve their kicking. Dwight and Banks excel as return men.

Keys to success: Avoiding injuries, for a change, will help Iowa, which finished 1994 with a bang. Sherman revived the offense by coming off the bench to spark Iowa to a tie at Purdue and subsequently lead it to season-ending victories over Northwestern and Minnesota. The Hawkeyes look to build on that momentum, but progress will be minimal unless the run defense improves.

Outlook: The Hawkeyes, a combined 16-18-1 the past three seasons, will get fat on a non-conference slate that includes Northern Iowa, Iowa State and New Mexico State. Iowa also catches a break by not playing Michigan. It looks like Hawkeyes fans can make postseason plans—but it won't be a major bowl bid.

Coach Hayden Fry says: "We'll have an exciting, explosive offense capable of making big plays. There's no doubt defense is where we need the most improvement, and that's our biggest concern. One thing is for sure: You're going to see some new wrinkles in both our offense and defense."

HAWKEYE DATA

Coach: Hayden Fry (116-69-8, 16 years) 205-158-10 overall, 33 years)

1994 record: 5-5-1. Big Ten: 3-4-1/7th.



Johnny Johnson's 1994 pass-efficiency rating of 137.6 was the second-best in Illinois history.

CHECK OUTLETS

Continued

Key losses: Pat Boone, SS; Anthony Dean, FL; Fritz Fejures, G; John Hanke, LB; Harold Jasper, SE; Kent Kaht, FB; Brian McCulloch, OT; Bo Porter, FS; Mark Russell, TE; Parker Wildeman, DT

Starters returning: Offense (5): Matt Purdy, G, 6-2/270, Sr., Sedrick Shaw, RB, 6-1/200, Jr.; Matt Sherman, QB, 6-3/181, Soph.; Rosa Verba, T, 6-4/285, Jr.; Casey Wiegmann, C, 6-2/285, Sr. Defense (7): George Bennett, LB, 6-1/235, Sr.; Bobby Diaco, LB, 6-2/228, Sr.; Bill Ennis-Inge, E, 6-5/245, Jr.; Tom Knight, CB, 5-11/180, Jr.; Jon LaFleur, T, 6-3/275, Soph.; Darnen Robinson, CB (will move to FS), 6-2/200, Jr.; Chris Webb, T, 6-4/273, Sr. Kickers (1): Nick Gallery, P, 6-4/225, Jr.

Other key returnees: Tavian Banks, RB, Soph.; Lloyd Bickham, NG, Sr.; Kerry Cooks, FS, Soph.; Ryan Driscoll, QB, Jr.; Tim Dwight, WR, Soph.; Rodney Filer, FB, Jr.; Mike Goff, G, Soph.; Willie Guy, WR, Sr.; Brian Hurley, K, Jr.; Chris Jackson, SS, Sr.; Aaron Kooker, OT, Sr.; Demo Odems, WR, Jr.; Scott Stutzker, TE, Sr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Shaw (170 att., 1,002 yds., 7 TD); Passing: Driscoll (154 att., 78 comp., 8 INT, 3 TD, 1,018 yds.); Receiving: Stutzker (27 rec., 379 yds., 2 TD); Tackler: Diaco (118); Sackler: Webb (4).

Top newcomers: Corey Brown, DL, Fr.; Ray Clark, LB, Fr.; Tang Holman, DB, Fr.; Doug Miller, RB, Fr.; Marcus Montgomery, LB, Sr. (JC/academics); Vernon Rollins, LB, Fr. (RS); Eric Thigpen, CB, Fr. (RS).

Site: Iowa City, Iowa. **Stadium:** Kinnick Stadium (70,397).

Last league title won: 1990 (he)

INDIANA

Sept. 9 —Northern Iowa	Oct. 28 —at Ohio State
Sept. 16 —at Iowa State	Nov. 4 —Illinois
Sept. 30 —New Mexico State	Nov. 11 —at Northwestern
Oct. 7 —at Michigan State	Nov. 18 —at Wisconsin
Oct. 14 —Indiana	Nov. 25 —Minnesota
Oct. 21 —Penn State	

7. INDIANA

Offensive strengths: Balance should tip the scales in the Hoosiers' favor. Tailback Alex Smith set a Big Ten freshman record by rushing for 1,475 yards, the third-highest total by a freshman in NCAA history. He'll run behind a line that features three returning starters, including center Jay Seib and tackle Clay Williams. Strong-armed Chris Dittoe is a prototype NFL signal-caller: a 6-foot-6 passer who is accurate. He came off the bench to throw for 279 yards and four touchdowns against then-No. 1 Penn State. Indiana thinks tight end Ben Klusmeyer could blossom.

Offensive weaknesses: Dittoe needs someone to take advantage of his strong arm. Ajamu Stoner is the best target and Eric Matthews shows potential. More must emerge. Depth at quarterback and tailback is shaky.

Defensive strengths: The secondary allowed foes to complete a league-high 64.4 percent of its passes but should be much-improved with the move of Eric Smedley, Indiana's best defender, from cornerback to free safety and the development of sophomore cornerbacks Joey Eloms and Joe King. The line is loaded with veterans, including potential star end Nathan Davis.

Defensive weaknesses: The Hoosiers have a hole in the middle of their defense where the linebackers belong. All three starters—including team MVP Alfonzo Thurman—from last season are gone, and one of the top candidates to start (Jamie Baisley) missed most of spring practice with a broken toe. This group is not only unproven, it's undersized. Consequently, Indiana may have to play one or more of its ballyhooed true freshmen linebackers: Bryan Bobay, Al Phillips and Jabar Robinson.

Special teams: Kicker Bill Manolopoulos was All-Big Ten in 1993 but slipped last season, when he made just 6 of 11 field-goal

attempts and had a long of just 37 yards. Look for a two-headed punter, with Michael Irving getting long-ball duty and Will Horn handling the short stuff. Matthews will run back kickoffs, but a punt returner must be found.

Keys to success: The offensive line must be able to ignite the talents of Smith and Dittoe. And Smith and Dittoe must remain healthy, because there are no experienced backups behind the duo. Also, a group of linebackers must emerge.

Outlook: Indiana's offense could be one of the best in school history. It will have to be to make up for the defense. The Hoosiers won't beat teams, they'll have to outscore them. All in all, this is a solid team that is a year away from making noise. A typically soft non-league schedule could guarantee the Hoosiers their eighth winning season in the past 10 campaigns.

Coach Bill Mallory says: "We're more seasoned and we've got more firepower on offense. But we have to get our defense and kicking game to where it was two years ago. Linebackers are the big concern, but we're much better in the backfield."

RECORDING DATA

Coach: Bill Mallory (63-61-3, 11 years; 162-113-4 overall, 25 years).

1994 record: 6-5. Big Ten: 3-5/28th.

Key losses: Eddie Baety, WR; Lance Brown, FS; Jim DiGiulio, P; Troy Drake, DT; Andrew Greene, G; Tom McKinnon, TE; John Paci, QB; Chris Smith, OT; Derrick Terrell, LB; Alfonzo Thurman, LB; Trevor Wilcox, LB. **Starters returning:** Offense (6): Steve Lee, FB, 6-1/255, Jr.; Tom Lukawski, G, 6-2/282, Jr.; Eric Matthews, WR, 6-0/175, Sr.; Jay Seib, C, 6-8/265, Jr.; Alex Smith, TB, 6-0/202, Soph.; Clay Williams, T, 6-8/289, Sr. Defense (6): Nathan Davis, E, 6-5/265, Jr.; John Hammonstein, T, 6-3/249, Sr.; Kris Mucci, CB, 5-11/183, Jr.; Louis Pinnock, E, 6-1/250, Sr.; Eric Smedley, CB (will move to FS), 5-11/195, Sr.; Aaron Warnecke, SS, 6-1/192, Soph. Kickers (1): Bill Manolopoulos, K, 5-10/160, Jr.

Other key returnees: Jamie Baisley, LB, Jr.; Bo Barzilauskas, DT; Soph. Reggie Bryant, LB, Jr.; Chris Dittoe, QB, Jr.; Joey Eloms, FS (will move to CB); Soph.; Will Horn, WR/P; Sr.; Joe King, CB; Soph.; Ben Klusmeyer, TE; Soph.; Chris Lwinski, OT; Soph.; Eli Rasheed, DT, Sr.; Ajamu Stoner, WR, Jr.; Matt Surface, LB, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Smith (265 att., 1,475 yds., 10 TD); Passing: Dittoe (107 att., 59 comp., 1 INT, 6 TD, 631 yds.); Receiving: Stoner (29 rec., 409 yds., 4 TD); Tackler: Warnecke (56); Sackler: Davis (3).

Top newcomers: Bryan Bobay, LB, Fr.; Michael Irving, P, Fr. (RS); Eugene Jones, RB, Fr.; Chris Mann, G, Fr.; Randy Maxwell, TE, Fr.; Al Phillips, LB, Fr.; Jabar Robinson, LB, Fr.; Kyvin Supemaw, SS, Jr. (JC).

Site: Bloomington, Ind. **Stadium:** Memorial Stadium (52,364).

Last league title won: 1967 (he)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 9 —Western Michigan	Oct. 21 —Michigan
Sept. 16 —Kentucky	Oct. 28 —at Penn State
Sept. 23 —Southern Miss	Nov. 11 —Michigan State
Sept. 30 —at Northwestern	Nov. 18 —at Ohio State
Oct. 7 —Illinois	Nov. 24 —Purdue
Oct. 14 —at Iowa	

8. PURDUE

Offensive strengths: The ground game, paced by Mike Alstott, should leave defenders with a run-down feeling. Alstott, considered the top fullback in the nation, became the first Purdue player since 1976 and only the fourth in school history to run for more than 1,000 yards (1,188) in a season. And the big bull can catch and block, too. The tailback position will be deep if senior Corey Rogers, the 1991 Big Ten Freshman of the Year, is academically eligible. The line, a specialty of Coach Jim Colletto, returns three starters.

Offensive weaknesses: Spindly Craig Allen is a proven receiver, but the rest of the corps must catch on fast. The health of quarterbacks Rick Trefzger (knee surgery) and Billy Dicken (dislocated throwing shoulder) is a concern, and the line lacks depth.

Defensive strengths: The way this unit has performed the past two seasons, it's hard say it has any strengths. Purdue bills its linebacking crew as one of the Big Ten's best. We shall see. The unit figures to be athletic and quick, headed by rising star Chike Okefor and Aaron Hall. Tackle Jon Krick plays all out all the time.

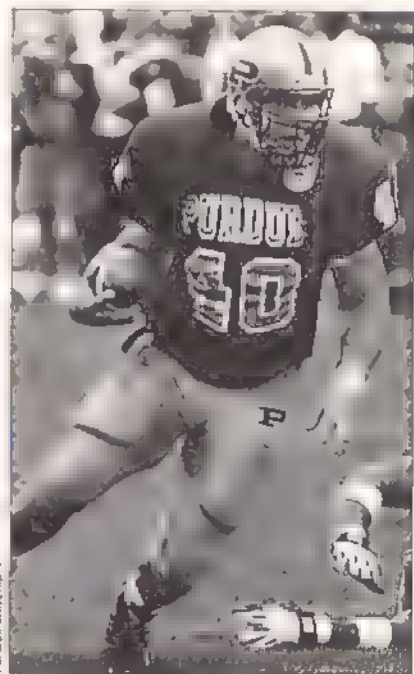
Defensive weaknesses: How bad were the Boilermakers in 1994? They finished 105 out of 107 I-A schools in total defense by allowing 471.3 yards per game. Considering that, it's amazing Purdue won four games and tied two others. The Boilers were forced to play too many youngsters in the secondary, but the line did little to help matters. Eight starters return. It's unknown if that's good or bad.

Special teams: Punter Rob Deignan, who ranked third in the conference with a 41-yard average, is one of the best in the Big Ten. Kicker Brad Bobich, who hit 6 of 12 field-goal attempts, must improve his range and consistency. Allen is a return threat.

Keys to success: Trefzger and Dicken must be healthy. Regardless, if the defense isn't better, the Boilermakers will see their string of consecutive losing seasons reach 11.

Outlook: The Boilermakers were on the verge of a major breakthrough last season. They started 4-1 and were 4-2-2 entering their final three games, but injuries and a lack of depth took their toll. It won't take Purdue long to see if its defense has improved, as it opens the season at West Virginia and then hosts Notre Dame. Even if the Boilers are better, it may not be reflected in their record, thanks to their typically tough schedule.

Coach Jim Colletto says: "Our defense should be much better. We've improved the



Thanks to fullback Mike Alstott, Purdue's ground game could leave foes run-down.

toughness of our team. We have some good young players who are tough guys. We're hitting better."

COACHES DATA

Coech: Jim Coletto (13-29-2, 4 years, 30-67-3 overall, 8 years).
1994 record: 4-5-2 Big Ten: 2-4-2/TBth.
Key losses: Mike Cardona, OT; Bart Conley, LB (transfer/Cincinnati); Ryan Grigson, OT; John Jackson, CB; Matt Kingsbury, DE; Ben Thornton, SE.
Starters returning: Offense (8): Craig Allen, FL, 6-1/175, Sr. Mike Alstott, FB, 6-1/241, Sr. Damon Lewis, G, 6-2/340, Jr. Corey Rogers, TB, 5-10/210, Sr. Chris Sedoris, G (will move to C), 6-4/277, Sr. Charlie Stephens, TE, 6-4/247, Sr. Rick Trefzger, QB, 6-2/204, Jr. Emmett Ziletti, C (will move to G), 6-3/285, Jr. Defense (8): Derrick Brown, CB, 5-9/170, Soph., Mike Burchfield, E, 6-5/253, Jr.; Joe Hagins, FS (will move to LB), 6-0/204, Jr.; Aaron Hall, LB, 6-1/235, Sr. Reggie Johnson, SS, 5-11/194, Soph., Jon Krick, T, 6-2/287, Sr., Chika Okafor, LB, 6-5/237, Soph.; Jayme Washel, T, 6-2/270, Sr. Kickers (2): Brad Bobich, K, 6-1/214, Sr. Rob Deignan, P, 6-4/217, Sr.
Other key returnees: Lee Brush, FS, Soph., Billy Dicken, QB, Soph.; Scott Green, TE, Sr. (RS/academics), Alfie Hill, OT, Sr. Darnell Howard, DE, Jr.; Ben Metzger, OT, Sr.; Edwin Watson, TB, Soph.
Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Alstott (202 att, 1,188 yds., 14 TD); Passing: Trefzger (131 att., 74 comp, 6 INT, 3 TD, 1,137 yds.); Receiving: Alstott (23 rec., 298 yds, 0 TD); Tackler: Hall (109); Sackler: Howard (4).
Top newcomers: Mark Bigonger, OT, Jr. (JC); Willie Burroughs, SS, Fr. (RS); Wayne Finchum, OL, Fr. Wayne Francis, DB, Soph. (JC); Chad Manning, OT, Jr. (JC); John Reeves, QB, Soph. (Prop 4B); Derrick Winston, CB, Jr. (JC).
Site: West Lafayette, Ind. **Stadium:** Ross-Ade Stadium (87,661)
Last league title won: 1987 (Ile).

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at West Virginia	Oct. 21 —at Ohio State
Sept. 9 —Notre Dame	Nov. 4 —Wisconsin
Sept. 23 —Michigan State	Nov. 11 —at Michigan
Sept. 30 —Ball State	Nov. 18 —Northwestern
Oct. 7 —at Minnesota	Nov. 24 —at Indiana
Oct. 14 —Penn State	

9. MICHIGAN STATE

Offensive strengths: The "skill position" players live up to their title. Big Tony Banks, who boasts the best passing-efficiency rating (143.1) of any returning league signal-caller, is one of the Big Ten's premier quarterbacks. Tailback Duane Gouibourne and fullback Scott Greene are among the best in the Big Ten at their positions. The receiving corps, paced by Nigea Carter and Muhsin Muhammad, is solid, too.

Offensive weaknesses: Guard Bob Denton is the only returning starter on the line. Highly regarded Flozell Adams figures to start at one tackle spot. Dave Mudge may secure the other tackle slot, with Matt Beard at center.

Defensive strengths: The Spartans, who will switch to a 4-3 alignment under Coach Nick Saban, have two standout linebackers in Reggie Garnett and Ike Reese as they look to improve a unit that ranked last in the Big Ten in rushing defense (256.8 yards per game). To accommodate the new defensive scheme, Yakini Allen has moved from line-backer to tackle. Cornerback Demetrice Martin was a first-team all-conference selection by the coaches last season.

Defensive weaknesses: All three starters from last season's line are gone, and the switch to a four-man front puts an even greater premium on finding replacements. Tackles Chris Smith and Robert McBride, along with end Orion Hayes, look to make an impact. Junior-college standout Jabbar Threats and true freshman Desmond Thomas could offer immediate help on the line. The secondary is thin as well, but free

safety Luke Bencie, strong safety Brian Echols and redshirt freshman cornerback Amp Campbell should shore up the unit. **Special teams:** Punter Chris Salani (38.8-yard average) and kicker Chris Gardner (14 of 21 field goals) are solid but not spectacular. Derrick Mason, who led the league with a 26.8-yard average on kickoff returns, is the Big Ten's most-feared return man.

Key to success: The offensive and defensive lines will determine the fate of Michigan State.

Outlook: Saban, who comes to East Lansing after spending the past four seasons as the defensive coordinator of the Cleveland Browns, will inject new spirit into a program that needs a lift after 12 seasons under George Perles. It will take Saban, Michigan State's defensive coordinator from 1983-87, and his staff awhile to get acclimated to the personnel. Everyone better adapt quickly, however, as the Spartans open the season against Nebraska. It looks like a rebuilding year for Michigan State.

Coach Nick Saban says: "We don't have enough experience, quality or numbers of linemen on either side of the ball. And I think we need more defensive players. When you take over a program, all you can do is take the players you have and try to develop the kind of attitude you think is necessary to win."

COACHES DATA

Coech: Nick Saban (1st year)
1994 record: 5-6 Big Ten: 4-4/5th
Key losses: Mark Birchmeyer, C; Stan Callender, CB. Matt Christensen, LB, Mill Coleman, FL, Brad Costello, KR, Colin Cronin, G, Brian DeMarco, OT, Juan Hammonds, DE, Shane Hannah, OT; Aaron Jackson, NT; Damian Manson, SS; Bob Organ, TE, Dale Person, DT.
Starters returning: Offense (5): Tony Banks, QB, 6-6/225, Sr. Nigea Carter, FL, 6-3/185, Jr.; Bob Denton, G, 6-5/290, Sr. Duane Gouibourne, TB, 5-9/189, Sr.; Scott Greene, FB, 5-11/227, Sr. Defense (5): Yakini Allen, T (moved from LB), 6-2/245, Sr.; Reggie Garnett, LB, 6-2/225, Jr.; Demetrice Martin, CB, 5-9/180, Sr. Ike Reese, LB, 6-4/218, Soph.; Robert Shurelds, FS, 6-2/180, Sr. Kickers (2): Chris Gardner, K, 5-10/180, Soph., Chris Salani, P, 6-1/226, Sr.
Other key returnees: Flozell Adams, OT, Soph.; Matt Beard, C, Jr. Luke Bencie, FS, Sr. Brian Echols, SS, Jr. Orion Hayes, DE, Sr. Josh Kaut, TE, Soph. Derrick Mason, FL/KR, Jr. Robert McBride, DT, Sr.; Dave Mudge, OT, Soph.; Muhsin Muhammad, FL, Sr.; Carl Reeves, LB, Jr.; Marc Renaud, TB, Jr. Chris Smith, DT, Jr. Don Walker, G, Soph.; Marvin Wright, LB, Jr.
Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Gouibourne (214 att., 930 yds., 8 TD); Passing: Banks (238 att., 145 comp., 6 INT, 11 TD, 2,040 yds.); Receiving: Greene (42 rec., 452 yds., 3 TD); Tackler: Reese (92); Sackler: Reese (3).
Top newcomers: Amp Campbell, CB, Fr. (RS); Kenny Camington, WR, Fr.; Davario Carter, DL, Fr.; Tyrone Crenshaw, TB, Fr. (RS); Elroy Reese, TE, Jr. (transfer/LNLV); Desmond Thomas, DL, Fr.; Jabbar Threats, DL, Jr. (JC).
Site: East Lansing, Mich. **Stadium:** Spartan Stadium (73,000)
Last league title won: 1980 (ie).

SCHEDULE

Sept. 9 —Nebraska	Oct. 21 —Minnesota
Sept. 16 —at Louisville	Oct. 28 —at Wisconsin
Sept. 23 —at Purdue	Nov. 4 —Michigan
Sept. 30 —Boston College	Nov. 11 —at Indiana
Oct. 7 —Iowa	Nov. 25 —Penn State
Oct. 14 —at Illinois	

10. NORTHWESTERN

Offensive strengths: Tailback Darnell Autry gave an exciting sneak preview of his potential by rushing for 171 yards on 39 carries in the season finale at Penn State. He'll be the axle on which this offense will turn. Autry will have the luxury of running behind a line headed by standout center

Continued

BURNING QUESTION

Why did Simeon Rice return for senior year?

As Simeon Rice's college football career progressed, the persistent question made his ears ring: Would you leave school early to play in the NFL if you had the opportunity?

Rice's answer: "In a heartbeat. A heartbeat."

After last season, Rice found himself making the very decision that would make his inner cash register ring. But after much soul-searching, he blinked. The hard-charging outside linebacker, who is just three sacks short of becoming the Big Ten's all-time leader after pacing the league with 16 in '94, decided to return to Illinois for his senior season.

Rice wrestled with his decision throughout much of the winter and delayed his announcement until January 11, the final day for underclassmen to announce their intention. He didn't make up his mind until that morning. As proof of his uncertainty, he had not yet registered for second-semester classes; no need to enroll if you're going to drop out right away.

Rice (6-foot-5, 243 pounds) ultimately stayed because he wasn't convinced he would be among the first five picks. Many people told him he would be. Noted draft analyst Mel Kiper even called to tell him he thought he would go No. 1. But Illinois Coach Lou Tepper said his research indicated Rice would go around the middle of the first round.

Rice decided to play it safe. One more season should only improve his chance of being among the elite picks.

"I was sure of what I had, but I was unsure of the unknown," he said.

Rice, who is on track to get his degree in December, surprised many people around Champaign with his decision. Even most members of the student body couldn't understand how he could turn down a likely million-dollar contract.

"Most everybody I talked to said they thought I should go out," said Rice, a Chicago native whose mother is a special education teacher and whose father works for Ford. "They said, 'You've won the lottery. Turn your ticket in.'"

"They didn't understand how I could turn down the money. But it's not turning anything down, it's investing. It's compounding interest for another year. When I get it, I'll get it tenfold."

Rice says he wants to lead Illinois to a Rose Bowl victory in his final season, but that isn't all. He also wants to set a standard for future Illini linebackers to pursue.

"I want to leave a legacy," he said. "Those things you don't do every day. Some things money can't buy. Everybody has different values. I'm grounded in my decision. I've made myself happy."

—MARK MONTIETH

Rob Johnson and star guard Ryan Padgett. Thanks to Shane Graham, Northwestern has no concerns at tight end.

Offensive weaknesses: An offense can't move with a broken axle. Autry better not get hurt, because no proven replacement parts are available. A fullback to grease the path also is needed. The receivers lack experience, but the unit has potential.

Defensive strengths: Go ahead, try and go deep on 'em. Free safety William Bennett (three interceptions, five passes broken up, 100 tackles) and cornerback Chris Martin (66 tackles, two passes broken up, two fumble recoveries) are among the Big Ten's best. Cornerback Rodney Ray (13 passes broken up) can play, too, and other talent is rising. The linebacking should be solid, thanks to veteran tackling machine Danny Sutter and intense Geoff Shein.

Defensive weaknesses: When the line gets drawn in the turf, can this one stand up to the challenge? Some decent prospects are in the wings, but tackle Matt Rice is the only standout. Northwestern's ballyhooed secondary was part of a unit that ranked last in the Big Ten in pass defense (148.3 yards per game). Draw your own conclusions.

Special teams: Punter Paul Burton led the Big Ten with a 43-yard average and is one of the nation's best. Kicker Sam Valenzisi hit 13 of 19 field-goal attempts (including two of more than 50 yards) and has hit 35 consecutive extra points, one short of the school record. Brian Musso is a solid punt returner. He ran one back for a touchdown and averaged nine yards per return. Marcel Price may be Northwestern's kickoff returner.

Keys to success: Tim Hughes started the first eight games at quarterback last season and Steve Schnur started the final three. But they both might become backups behind redshirt freshman Lloyd Abramson or sophomore Chris Hamdorf. If one of them improves the position, the Wildcats should have their best team in years. But Northwestern has to play better defense if

it ever hopes to reach the upper division.

Outlook: Northwestern hasn't posted a winning record since 1971. Don't look for the Wildcats to finish above .500 in 1995, but this edition might come closer than any in recent years. Optimism abounded in Evanston during the spring, as Coach Gary Barnett continues to recruit well and build a program with a solid framework.

Coach Gary Barnett says: "We're looking to recapture our passing game that we had in the 1992 and 1993 seasons with a new set of receivers. We'll improve our defense. I really believe we'll have a chance to have a good defense—one that will allow us to have a breakthrough season."

WILDCATS DATA

Coach: Gary Barnett (8-24-1, 3 years; 16-35-2 overall, 5 years)
1994 record: 3-7-1 Big Ten: 2-6/10th

Key losses: Todd Baczek OT, Chris Gamble, WR Bill Kozel, NG; Dennis Lundy, RB; Luther Morris, TE; Matt O'Dwyer G; Michael Sauters, WR; Corey Singleton, SS Hugh Williams, LB

Starters returning: Offense (5): Justin Chabot, T, 6-6/285, Jr. Shane Graham, TE, 6-6/260, Sr. Tim Hughes QB 6-3/215, Jr., Rob Johnson, C, 6-4/270, Sr., Ryan Padgett, G, 6-3/285, Sr. **Defense (8):** William Bennett, FS 6-1/190, Sr.; Larry Curry T, 6-4/273, Sr., Chris Martin, CB 5-9/180, Sr.; Rodney Ray, CB, 5-11/190, Sr. Matt Rice, T, 6-3/255, Jr.; Geoff Shein, LB, 6-2/224 Sr. Danny Sutter LB, 6-2/225, Sr. Mike Warren LB, 6-5/237, Sr. **Kickers (2):** Paul Burton, P, 5-11/185, Jr. Sam Valenzisi K, 5-7 156, Sr.

Other key returnees: Darnell Autry, TB, Soph., Eric Collier, SS, Soph.; Chris Hamdorf, QB, Soph., Brian Musso, WR/PR, Soph., Steve Schnur QB, Jr., Toussaint Waleman, WR, Soph. **Returning statistical leaders:** Rushing: Autry (120 att., 556 yds., 1 TD); Passing: Schnur (117 att. 61 comp., 10 INT 4 TD, 899 yds.); Receiving: Dave Beazley (8 rec 88 yds., 1 TD) Tackler: Sutter (120), Sacker Rice (3).

Top newcomers: Lloyd Abramson, QB, Fr. (RS); D'Wayne Bates, WR, Fr. (RS) Matt Hartl, FB, Fr. (RS) Bryan LaBelle, OT, Fr. (RS); Marcel Price DB/KR, Fr. (RS) Hasan Steele, WR Fr.

Site: Evanston, Ill. **Stadium:** Dychs Stadium (49,256).

Last league title won: 1936

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Notre Dame	Oct. 21 —Wisconsin
Sept. 16 —Miami (Ohio)	Oct. 28 —at Illinois
Sept. 23 —Air Force	Nov. 4 —Penn State
Sept. 30 —Indiana	Nov. 11 —Iowa
Oct. 7 —at Michigan	Nov. 18 —at Purdue
Oct. 14 —at Minnesota	



Northwestern free safety William Bennett was a pain in the back to foes last year, when he had three interceptions and 100 tackles.

TL MINNESOTA

Offensive strengths: Chris Darkins, who ran for a school-record 1,443 yards last season, is a bona fide All-America candidate. He has size and sprinter's speed. Darkins will benefit from the presence of center Todd Jesewitz and tackle Mike Giovinetti. Minnesota expects big things from receivers Tony Levine, who battled injuries in 1994, and Johnny Woodson.

Offensive weaknesses: Just exactly who will trigger the Gophers' high-octane attack is uncertain. Sophomore Cory Sauter played in five games last season and has the tools to star. But he'll have a tough time

beating out junior-college transfer Jason Murdock. Minnesota thinks the presence of new quarterbacks coach Jim Zorn will help the inexperienced signal-callers.

Defensive strengths: Senior linebacker Craig Sauer is more than adequate and will get help from Justin Conzemius, who moves from strong safety to outside linebacker. The secondary, headed by cornerback Rodney Heath and strong safety Crawford Jordan, is becoming increasingly athletic.

Defensive weaknesses: Several position changes have the unit in a state of flux. Both starting tackles are gone, leaving question marks behind.

Special teams: Kicker Mike Chalberg is one of the Big Ten's finest, connecting on 17 of 23 field-goal attempts. But he hit none more than 50 yards. A new punter must be found. Heath and Rishon Early are among the league's best kick returners.

Keys to success: The strong-armed Murdock can give the Gophers a shot in the arm at quarterback if he adapts to a higher level of play. A passing game will be essential to take the burden off Darkins. Also, the Minnesota defense—long an Achilles' heel—must build on a strong finish.

Outlook: The Gophers have some fine individual talent, but not enough balance and depth to improve significantly upon last season's 1-7 league record.

Coach Jim Wacker says: "We were close last year. We've got to take the next step. Our initial recruiting class will be juniors now, so this is when you have a chance to go out there and be competitive."

GOLDEN Gophers DATA

Coach: Jim Wacker (9-24, 3 years; 153-115-3 overall, 24 years)

1994 record: 3-8 Big Ten: 1-7/11th

Key losses: Doyle Cockrell, DT; Ed Hawthorne, DT; Juan Hunter CB, Mike Kimbell, P; Pat O'Brien, G; Aaron Osterman, SE; Chuck Rios, WR/RB; Tim Schade QB Rich Thome, G David Vertin, OT; Trevor Walker, DE

Starters returning: Offense (5): Chris Darkins, QB, 6-1/215 Sr. Mike Giovinetti, T, 6-6/301, Sr., Todd Jesewitz, C, 6-5/290, Sr.; Mark Tangen, TE, 6-2/246, Jr.; Johnny Woodson, FL, 6-2/180, Sr. **Defense (7):** Justin Conzemius, LB (moved from SS) 6-2/225, Sr.; Jerome Davis, E 6-5/270, Jr.; Rodney Heath, CB/PR, 5-10/170, Jr.; Peter Hiestand, E (moved from LB), 6-3/246, Sr. Crawford Jordan, SS (moved from FS), 5-11/181, Jr.; Ben Langford, LB, 6-2/220, Jr.; Craig Sauer LB, 6-2/230, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Mike Chalberg, K, 5-11/170, Sr.

Other key returnees: Tuftu Atwell, WR, Soph.; Gann Brooks, OT, Jr.; Rafael Cooper RB, Soph.; Mark Cross, LB, Soph. Rishon Early, FS/KR, Jr.; Kevin Holmes, DT Jr.; Javon Jackson, RB, Soph.; Paul Kratochvil, TE, Jr.; Tony Levine, WR, Sr.; Cory Sauter, QB, Soph.; Ryan Thelwell, WR, Soph. **Returning statistical leaders:** Rushing: Darkins (277 att., 1,443 yds., 11 TD); Passing: Sauter (21 att., 9 comp., 1 INT 0 TD, 80 yds.); Receiving: Woodson (26 rec., 326 yds., 0 TD) Tackler: Conzemius (113); Sacker: Sauer (3)

Top newcomers: Troy Duerr, DT, Fr. (RS); Jim Gall, OT, Fr. (RS); Tim Grala, SS, Fr. (RS); Lee Hutton, WR, Fr. (RS)

Jason Murdock, QB, Jr. (JC); Antoine Richard, DE, Fr. (RS); Rufus Smith, LB, Fr. (RS) Tony Vann, WR Fr.; Theron Von Behren, DE, Fr.; Verdis Webb, RB Fr.; Deon White, LB, Fr. (RS)

Site: Minneapolis. **Stadium:** Metrodome (63,669).

Last league title won: 1967 (tie)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 16 —Ball State	Oct. 28 —at Michigan
Sept. 23 —at Syracuse	Nov. 4 —Ohio State
Sept. 30 —Arkansas State	Nov. 11 —Wisconsin
Oct. 7 —Purdue	Nov. 18 —at Illinois
Oct. 14 —Northwestern	Nov. 25 —at Iowa
Oct. 21 —at Michigan State	

Mark Montieth covers college sports for the Indianapolis News.

SCOUTING THE BIG TEN

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive backfield: Penn State
Best wide receivers: Penn State
Best offensive line: Penn State
Best defensive line: Ohio State
Best linebackers: Illinois
Best secondary: Northwestern
Best special teams: Northwestern
Hardest hitter: Simeon Rice, LB, Illinois
Best backup quarterback: Scott Weaver, Illinois
Best pro prospect: Bobby Engram, WR, Penn State
Best stadium: Michigan Stadium
Best rivalry: Michigan-Ohio State

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. Penn State (Best recruit: RB Curtis Enis) Enis, the 1993 Ohio Player of the Year who attended prep school last fall, should help immediately.
2. Michigan (DB Charles Woodson)
3. Illinois (OL Mike Flaar)
4. Ohio State (LB Randy Homa)
5. Wisconsin (QB Mark Zanders)
6. Iowa (WR Tony Collins)
7. Michigan State (OL Desmond Thomas)
8. Indiana (LB Bryan Bobay)
9. Northwestern (FB/LB Stafford Gaston)
10. Purdue (OL Wayne Fochum)
11. Minnesota (OT Pat Hau)

Bowl bound: Penn State, Michigan, Ohio State, Illinois and Wisconsin. Everyone else is a long shot.

Biggest shoes to fill: Penn State quarterback Kerry Collins'. Wally Richardson takes over for the All-America. Perennially high expectations in State College may bury Richardson, who will bear the brunt of the team's success or failure whether it's justified or not.

Most underrated player: Wisconsin linebacker Pete Monty. Last season, Monty became the first sophomore to lead Wisconsin in tackles since Jim Melka in 1983. Monty finished with 131 stops and had the fourth-best tackles average in the Big Ten (10.9), but he didn't even make honorable mention all-conference.

Most overrated player: Indiana tailback Alex Smith. He enjoyed an exceptional freshman season, but most of his output came against weak defenses. He gained just 65 yards against Wisconsin, 22 against Minnesota, 87 against Northwestern and 62 against Penn State. Smith is very good and will get better, but he didn't deserve second-team all-league recognition ahead of the likes of Ohio State star runner Eddie George and a few others.

Best head coach: Nobody else but Penn State's Joe Paterno. His winning percentage of 79.3 is third-best among active coaches, and last season's 12-0 record proved the 68-year-old icon hasn't lost a step.

Best coaching staff: Hey, Paterno can't do it alone. His nine assistants total 119 years of experience, and five have been

on the job at least 12 years.

Coach on the hot seat: Iowa has won or shared three Big Ten titles in Hayden Fry's 16 seasons, but the Hawkeyes are coming off three consecutive non-winning seasons. Fry's contract has been extended through 1998, but he needs another winning season to cool his cushion.

Best bets: Purdue fullback Mike Alstott will score two rushing touchdowns to break Leroy Keyes' school record of 29 while Keyes—the Boilers' newly hired running backs coach—watches from the sideline. . . . Northwestern will suffer its 24th consecutive losing season, but Coach Gary Barnett will field more job offers. The three previous Wildcats coaches reached the NFL despite losing records. Rick Venturi (1-13-1 from 1978-80) is defensive coordinator for the Cleveland Browns, Dennis Green (10-45 from 1981-85) is coach of the Minnesota Vikings and Francis Peay (13-51-2 from 1986-91) was an assistant with the Indianapolis Colts through 1993. Barnett already has been wooed by other colleges during his three losing seasons (8-24-1) in Evanston, but he's signed a contract extension into the 21st century.

Odds and ends: Wisconsin has five players on scholarship from Indianapolis, one more than Purdue, which is located just 60 miles northwest of Indiana's capital. The credit goes to Badgers assistant Kevin Cosgrove, who established strong ties in Indy while an assistant at Illinois for eight seasons. . . . Northwestern punter Paul Burton had the best single-game performance by a conference punter since 1949 when the Wildcats played at Air Force last September. He kicked five times for a 56.6-yard average that day, with three boots sailing more than 60 yards. . . . The Big Ten is celebrating its centennial this season. . . . The Big Ten's 27-11-1 non-conference mark in 1994 was the league's best since the 1985 season. . . . Ohio State hasn't been to the Rose Bowl since the 1984 season. The Buckeyes haven't won it since the '73 campaign.

—MARK MONTIETH

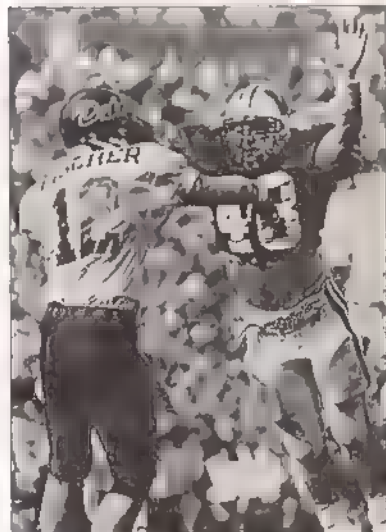


Indiana tailback Alex Smith earned too much attention for abusing bad defenses in 1994.

Ascending: Wisconsin. The Badgers, the 1994 Rose Bowl winner, were 4-1 last season before winning their final three games—including a victory over Duke in the Hall of Fame Bowl. The Badgers will continue moving upward this season as long as they avoid major injuries.

Descending: Penn State. The Nittany Lions lose 11 starters, including Ki-Jana Carter, Kerry Collins and Kyle Brady on offense. They won't go 12-0 again—but 10-2 or 11-1 isn't out of the question.

Nightmare schedule: Illinois. The Illini open with Michigan, then play at Oregon before returning home to play two more bowl teams from last season, Arizona and East Carolina. The only saving grace is that they don't have to play Penn State.



Wisconsin linebacker Pete Monty soared in '94, but few noticed his deeds.

Dream schedule: Indiana. The Hoosiers play seven home games, opening the season with Western Michigan, Kentucky and Southern Mississippi before delving into Big Ten play. But they have to play Michigan, Penn State, Michigan State and Ohio State in succession.

Best matchup of the year: Michigan at Penn State, November 18. The teams painted a classic when they met in Ann Arbor last season. The Wolverines, 31-24 losers in that game, get their payback opportunity in State College, Pa.

Worst matchup of the year: SMU at Wisconsin, September 23. Southern Methodist still hasn't recovered from the NCAA's "death penalty." It was 1-9-1 last season and should be a welcome guest in Camp Randall Stadium.

Shocker of the year: Penn State has to lose sometime, right? How about at Michigan State on November 25? The Nittany Lions will be coming off a home game with Michigan that could determine the league title, while the Spartans will have had a week off to heal and prepare for the final game of the regular season for both teams.

1. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Offensive strengths: The Trojans have the best receiver in the nation in Keyshawn Johnson and are six deep at running back. They have seven linemen who have made at least one college start, and three tight ends who fill a variety of roles. Despite losing two key starters (OT Tony Boselli and QB Rob Johnson), USC should be stronger.

Offensive weaknesses: A lot will depend on how well the line plays without Boselli and if Brad Otton and Kyle Wachholtz can replace Johnson at quarterback. Otton is mild, Wachholtz wild, and John Robinson may wind up alternating them all season.

Defensive strengths: There was talent last year; the Trojans need maturity this year. Tackle Darrell Russell, end Israel Ifeanyi, linebacker Erick Herrin and cornerback Brian Kelly all were first-year starters in '94. They improved as the year progressed (except for the UCLA game) and should provide the experience and solidarity USC's defense has been lacking since the early '80s.

Defensive weaknesses: The Trojans still haven't proved they can stop the run (opponents averaged 162 yards a game last season). Robinson changed defensive coordinators and has switched to a 5-2 alignment that should protect a soft middle and increase pressure. Herrin must stay healthy because there's a lack of depth at linebacker, and Scott Fields needs to adjust to the demands of his new rover position. True freshman Daylon McCutcheon will get a chance to challenge for a spot at cornerback.

Special teams: Punter John Stonehouse (44.1-yard average) is an All-America candidate. Redshirt freshman Adam Abrams inherits the kicking job. McCutcheon, son of former Rams running back Lawrence McCutcheon, should be a boon to the return teams.

Keys to success: Getting adequate play from at least one of the quarterbacks and improving against the run is all that separates the Trojans from the Rose Bowl.

Outlook: Robinson's mandate when he returned to USC was to reestablish Trojan pride and get them back into the national mix. He has accomplished the first and is on the verge of the second. USC is the clear favorite in the Pac-10, has a relatively easy schedule and should be a preseason Top 10 team that will contend for national honors.

Coach John Robinson says: "We intend to be much more physical on the defensive line and pressure opponents more. But we don't want a gambling defense. It will be a simple approach. Offensively, we are going to run the football better than we've run it and make the quarterback position less important than it has been."

TROJANS DATA

Coach: John Robinson (83-22-3, 9 years)

1994 record: 8-3-1 (beat Texas Tech in Cotton Bowl). Pac-10: 6-2/2nd

Key losses: Tony Boselli, OT; Donn Cunningham, LB; Cole Ford, K; Ken Grace, WR; John Herpin, CB; Edward Harvey, WR; Rob Johnson, QB; Jeff Kopp, LB; Kris Pollack, G; Errol Small, LB; Brian Williams, LB

Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Terry Barnum, RB, 5-10/200, Sr.; Chris Brymer, G, 6-3/300, Soph.; Tyler Cashman, TE, 6-4/235, Sr.; Norberto Garido, T, 6-7/305, Sr.; Jeremy Hogue, C, 6-4/270, Sr.; Keyshawn Johnson, WR, 6-4/205, Sr.; Johnny McWilliams, TE, 6-5/245, Sr.; Shawn Walters, RB, 6-0/225, Jr. **Defense (9):** Mano Bradley, CB, 6-2/195, Sr.; Emrick Herrin, LB, 6-2/220, Sr.; Israel Ifeanyi, E, 6-5/250, Sr.; Brian

PACIFIC-10 Conference Rank: 3

By BOB KEISSER

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
2. ARIZONA
3. UCLA
4. WASHINGTON
5. OREGON
6. CALIFORNIA
7. OREGON STATE
8. WASHINGTON STATE
9. ARIZONA STATE
10. STANFORD



Southern California is six deep at running back, including Shawn Walters.

Kelly, CB, 6-1/190, Soph.; Matt Keneley, T, 6-5/285, Jr.; Sammy Knight, SS, 6-1/185, Jr.; Willie Lowery, E, 6-5/255, Jr. Micah Phillips, FS, 6-0/185, Sr.; Darrell Russell, T, 6-4/260, Soph. **Kickers (1):** John Stonehouse, P, 5-11/210, Sr. **Other key returnees:** John Allred, TE, Jr.; Marcus Bonds, DE, Sr.; Jesse Davis, CB, Sr.; Scott Fields, LB, Sr.; Leonard Green, RB, Sr.; Quincy Harrison, CB, Jr.; Brad Otton, QB, Jr.; Phalen Pounds, G, Soph.; Kyle Wachholtz, QB, Sr. (RS/red-arms) Delon Washington, RB, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Walters (193 att., 976 yds., 11 TD); Passing: Otton (92 att., 55 comp., 0 INT, 6 TD, 787 yds.); Receiving: Johnson (66 rec., 1,382 yds., 9 TD); Tackler: Knight (65); Sackler: Ifeanyi (3)

Top newcomers: Adam Abrams, K, Fr (RS); Rome Douglas, TE, Fr (RS); Tony Griffin, WR, Fr.; Daylon McCutcheon, CB/KR, Fr.; Billy Miller, WR, Fr.; Chris Miller, WR, Jr. (JC); Anthony Sanford, DT, Jr. (RS/JC)

Sites: Los Angeles. **Stadium:** Los Angeles Coliseum (94,159)

Last league title won: 1993 (tie)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 9 —San Jose State	Oct. 21 —at Notre Dame
Sept. 16 —Houston	Oct. 28 —at Washington
Sept. 23 —at Arizona	Nov. 4 —Stanford
Sept. 30 —Arizona State	Nov. 11 —at Oregon State
Oct. 7 —at California	Nov. 18 —UCLA
Oct. 14 —Washington State	

2. ARIZONA

Offensive strengths: The Wildcats have the Pac-10's top returning quarterback in Dan White, who is 16-5 as a starter and owns Arizona's No. 2 single-season passing percentage mark (57.1). His top target is Richard Dice, a clutch, hyper-intense wide receiver.

Offensive weaknesses: Dick Tomey likes running backs Gary Taylor and Kevin Schmitke, but it will take someone special to replace Ontwaun Carter (1,163 yards last season), especially with an all-new line. Center Mani Ott is the only experienced returnee.

Defensive strengths: Arizona's run defense has ranked first or second in the nation the past three years, and three linemen return: tackles Chuck Osborne and Joe Salave'a and end Tedy Bruschi. Bruschi has made 54½ tackles behind the line of scrimmage in his career. Strong safety Brandon Sanders, a banger, plays a big role in run support.

Defensive weaknesses: Big plays, both ways. The Wildcats had just four interceptions last season and were stung by the long pass. Mike Szlauko, a converted end, will have to replace departed linebacker Sean Harris, and newcomers such as junior-college transfer Rashee Johnson must bolster the secondary.

Special teams: Groza Award winner Steve McLaughlin will be missed; true freshman Mark McDonald gets first shot at replacing him. Dice will return punts again, and Gary and Cary Taylor both averaged more than 20 yards per kickoff return last year.

Keys to success: The offensive line must protect White and open holes for whoever runs the ball. The secondary also must improve.

Outlook: No Pac-10 team has won more games the past three years than Arizona (24), and the Wildcats have enough stars returning to pad their totals and challenge for the league title. Bruschi and Sanders are potential All-Americans, and the White-to-Dice combo is a dynamic one. But there's a huge mental question facing the Wildcats after last year's high expectations came crashing down: If they couldn't break through in 1994 with a better squad, where will they find the confidence to break through in '95?

Coach Dick Tomey says: "We were frustrated by the fact we underachieved. But Arizona was never 6-2 in the Pac-10 until two years ago, and we were 6-2 again last year. We didn't achieve our major goals, but that's not failure. The big difference this year is that our expectations will be higher than those of other people."

WILDCATS DATA

Coach: Dick Tomey (54-35-4, 8 years; 117-81-7 overall, 18 years)

1994 record: 6-4 (lost to Utah in Freedom Bowl) Pac-10: 6-2/2nd

Key losses: Tony Bowie, FS; Ontwaun Carter, TB; Hicham El-Mashtoub, C; Lamar Harris, TE; Sean Harris, LB; Akil Jackson, DE; Steve McLaughlin, K; Pulu Pomele, G; Joe Smigiel, OT; Warner Smith, G; Paul Starnes, OT; Claudius Wright, CB

Starters returning: **Offense (3):** Richard Dice, WR, 6-3/220, Jr.; Charles Myles, FB, 5-11/240, Soph.; Dan White, QB, 6-5/215, Sr. **Defense (7):** Tedy Bruschi, E, 6-1/253, Sr.; Charlie Camp, LB, 5-11/224, Sr.; Thomas Damps, LB, 6-3/219, Sr.; Kelly Malveaux, CB, 5-9/167, Soph.; Chuck Osborne, T,

6-2/280. Sr.; Joe Salave'a, T, 6-4/270, Jr.; Brandon Sanders, SS, 5-10/177. Sr. Kickers (1): Matt Peyton, P, 6-2/184, Jr. Other key returnees: Brady Batten, QB, Soph. (RS/shoulder); Chester Burnett, LB, Soph. (RS/shoulder); Mari Ott, C, Sr.; Chuck Rich, FS, Soph.; Kevin Schmidke, TB, Soph.; Mike Szulko, LB, Soph.; Cary Taylor, WR, Sr.; Gary Taylor, TB, Jr. Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Gary Taylor (72 att., 307 yds., 2 TD); Passing: White (296 att., 169 comp., 7 INT, 14 TD, 2,181 yds.); Receiving: Dice (56 rec., 969 yds., 8 TD); Tackler: Camp (50); Sacker: Osborne (11)

Top newcomers: Ron Holmes, WR, Fr. (RS); Rashee Johnson, DB, Jr. (JC); Mike Lucky, TE, Fr. (RS); Ian McCutcheon, OT, Jr. (JC); Mark McDonald, K, Fr.; Ryan Turley, OT, Jr. (JC); Chima Ugwu, DL, Soph. (JC); Rodney Williams, WR, Soph. (JC)

Site: Tucson, Ariz. Stadium: Arizona Stadium (57,803)

Last league title won: 1993 (tie)

WASH STATE

Sept. 2 —Pacific	Oct. 21 —Washington
Sept. 7 —Georgia Tech	Oct. 28 —at Washington St.
Sept. 16 —at Illinois	Nov. 4 —at Oregon State
Sept. 23 —Southern California	Nov. 11 —Oregon
Sept. 30 —California	Nov. 24 —at Arizona State
Oct. 14 —at UCLA	

3. UCLA

Offensive strengths: There's plenty of pieces here if the Bruins can make them fit. Wide receiver Kevin Jordan had more catches and yards last year than J.J. Stokes did in his amazing '93 season. Shamon Shah ran for more than 1,200 yards but will have to fight off Skip Hicks for playing time. And the entire starting line returns intact, including future NFL tackle Jonathan Ogden.

Offensive weaknesses: This offense has no conductor. Ryan Fien is physically gifted, but he has had difficulty learning the system. If he isn't the starter, the Bruins will turn to redshirt freshman Steve Buck. The Bruins also need a receiver to complement Jordan and are so shy at fullback that they may be forced to line up with split tailbacks and in one-back/two-tight end sets.

Defensive strengths: The pieces are smaller here. Travis Kirschke is the best player on a deep line, and outside linebacker Donnie Edwards is UCLA's latest pass-rushing terror. Junior Abdul McCullough is a worthy heir to a long line of talented Bruins safeties.

Defensive weaknesses: The defense allowed 203 yards per game rushing and 203 passing last year (now there's balance) and, until the USC game, it showed no resilience or character. Nine starters return, and Terry Donahue hopes it was just a maturity thing. There's a large hole at inside linebacker, and the soft corners of '94 are back.

Special teams: An All-America as a freshman in 1993, Bjorn Merten suffered through a frustrating season a year ago, missing nine field goals and two PATs. Freshman kicker Chris Sailer comes highly touted. Justin Sogoiian gets first shot at replacing departed punter Darren Schager. The return teams were not dynamic last year, but Jim McElroy has potential.

Keys to success: Fien has to make a positive statement at quarterback, and the defense has to show more backbone.

Outlook: UCLA has beaten USC four consecutive times and went to the Rose Bowl two seasons ago. So why are so many fans upset? Because the Bruins are 36-31-1 over the past six seasons and have gone to just two bowl games in that span, and they can't complain about the basketball team any-

more. Overlooking the Bruins would be a mistake—no one picked them to win the league in 1993, either, and the Bruins tied for the top spot—but many of the things that resulted in .500 teams in recent seasons (such as quarterback instability) still exist.

Coach Terry Donahue says: "The task of our staff is to try and make some progress on defense. We have to play better defense than we did a year ago if we expect to contend. We played awfully well in the last game, but until then, we were porous."

BRUINS DATA

Coach: Terry Donahue (144-68-8, 19 years)

1994 record: 5-6 Pac-10: 3-5/75th

Key losses: Wayne Cook, QB, Shane Jasper, LB; Mike Nguyen, SE, Darren Schager, P, Rod Smalley, LB; J.J. Stokes, SE, Daron Washington, FB

Starters returning: Offense (8): James Christensen, G, 6-4/270, Sr.; Mike Flanagan, C, 6-5/281, Sr.; Kevin Jordan, FL, 6-2/188, Sr.; Jonathan Ogden, T, 6-8/315, Sr.; Chad Overhauser, T, 6-5/290, Soph.; Brian Richards, TE, 6-5/247, Sr.; Shamon Shah, TB, 5-11/189, Jr.; Matt Soenksen, G, 6-6/300, Sr. **Defense (8):** Donnie Edwards, LB, 6-3/218, Sr.; Javelin Guidry, CB, 5-10/185, Soph.; Paul Guidry, FS, 5-11/175, Jr.; George Kase, NG, 6-3/245, Sr.; Travis Kirschke, T, 6-5/263, Jr.; Teddy Lawrence, CB, 5-9/187, Sr.; Abdul McCullough, SS, 6-1/200, Jr.; Gary Wallon, T, 6-5/257, Sr.; Phillip Ward, LB, 6-3/225, Jr. **Kickers (1):** Bjorn Merten, K, 6-1/199, Jr.

Other key returnees: Ryan Fien, QB, Jr.; Skip Hicks, TB, Jr.; Jim McElroy, FL, Soph.; Jeff Ruckman, LB, Soph. (RS/back); Justin Sogoiian, P, Jr.; Grady Strelz, DT, Sr.; Shaun Williams, FS, Soph.; Brian Willmer, LB, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Shah (210 att., 1,227 yds., 4 TD); Passing: Fien (38 att., 19 comp., 2 INT, 0 TD, 195 yds.); Receiving: Jordan (73 rec., 1,228 yds., 7 TD); Tackler: Edwards (106); Sacker: Edwards (12.5)

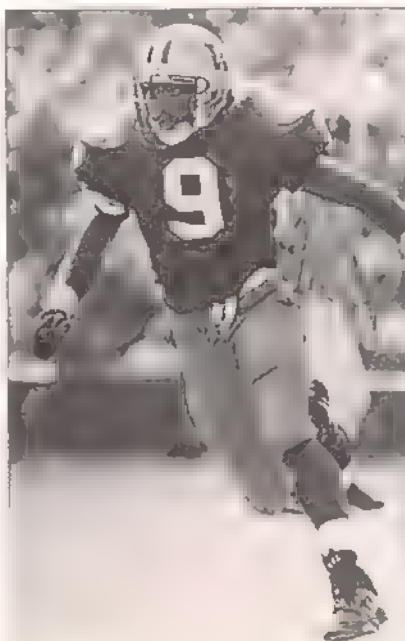
Top newcomers: Jayson Brown, DT, Jr. (JC); Steve Buck, QB, Fr. (RS); Ramogi Huma, LB, Fr.; Jason Nevadomsky, LB, Soph. (JC); Ryan Roques, WR, Fr.; Chris Sailer, K, Fr.; Eric Scott, SE, Soph. (transfer/Northwestern); Gene Waters, OT, Jr. (JC); Jarvis Watson, FB, Fr. (RS).

Site: Los Angeles Stadium: Rose Bowl (100,089)

Last league title won: 1993 (tie)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Miami (Fla.)	Oct. 21 —at Stanford
Sept. 9 —at Brigham Young	Oct. 28 —California
Sept. 16 —Oregon	Nov. 4 —at Arizona State
Sept. 23 —at Washington State	Nov. 11 —Washington
Sept. 30 —Fresno State	Nov. 18 —at So. California
Oct. 14 —Arizona	



Washington star free safety Lawyer Milloy excels at coverage and stopping the run.

4. WASHINGTON

Offensive strengths: You'll have to dig to find them. Quarterback Damon Huard led the Pac-10 in interceptions in 1994, but he is entering his third year as the starter. Fullback Richard Thomas will inherit more work with Napoleon Kaufman gone. Tight end Ernie Conwell is not Mark Bruener, but he is good. Three starters return on the line. **Offensive weaknesses:** Leon Neal and Rashaan Shehee can't replace all the offense Kaufman supplied, so the Huskies may use more one-back sets featuring Thomas. There's a lack of depth, experience and zip at receiver. Redshirt freshman Andre deSaussure and transfer Jerome Pathon, from Arcadia University in Nova Scotia, join holdover Dave Janoski.

Defensive strengths: The Huskies were softer against the run than they liked a year ago, but age and maturity should make the run defense tougher in '95. Three starters return on the line, including end Deke Devers, who had 14 tackles for losses. Ink Aleaga is a terrific inside linebacker. Free safety Lawyer Milloy is a multi-talented coverage guy who defends the run well.

Defensive weaknesses: Cornerback Reggie Reser returns in the secondary along with Milloy, but there's no experience at the other two spots. Aleaga is the only returning linebacker. Jerry Jensen should fill one inside spot, but the flanks are bare.

Special teams: Kicker John Wales was perfect from close range but erratic from beyond 40 yards. True freshman Randy Jones will be given the opportunity to win the job and free Wales for punting duty. The old days of great Huskies special teams are long past—they ranked near the bottom of the league in returns last year.

Keys to success: You don't replace Kaufman, so the Huskies will look for answers elsewhere. Namely, Huard must become a leader on offense and the front seven on defense must stop the run.

Outlook: Attitude is everything, and the Huskies are free to bowl again after two years in the NCAA pokey. Jim Lambright did a good job of keeping the team competitive after sanctions and Don James' retirement. The guarantee of a postseason reward could be enough to carry the Huskies through the rough spots on their schedule and the shortcomings in their lineup.

Coach Jim Lambright says: "The rain clouds that have been attached the last two years are gone. The whole off-season has been fantastically different. It's like a safe being removed from your back. Right away, you sweep the slate clean and you can look for the gold at the end of the rainbow. You can talk again about winning everything."

HUSKIES DATA

Coach: Jim Lambright (14-8, 2 years)

1994 record: 7-4 Pac-10: 4-4/ineligible for league title

Key losses: Eric Bjornson, SE; Mark Bruener, TE; Riche Chambers, LB; Frank Garcia, C; Russell Harston, CB; Napoleon Kaufman, TB; David Kilpatrick, LB; Lamar Lyons, DB; Andrew Peterson, OT; Donovan Schmidt, DE

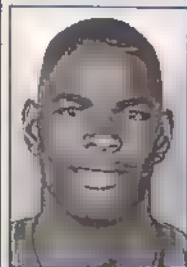
Starters returning: Offense (6): Eric Battle, T, 6-2/280, Sr.; Trevor Highfield, G, 6-4/285, Sr.; Damon Huard, QB, 6-4/215, Sr.; Dave Janoski, FL, 5-10/180, Jr.; Patrick Kesi, G, 6-3/315, Sr.; Richard Thomas, FB, 5-9/220, Sr.

Defense (6): Ink Aleaga, LB, 6-2/225, Jr.; Deke Devers, E, 6-0/245, Sr.; Steve Hoffmann, NT, 6-6/260, Sr.; Lawyer Milloy,

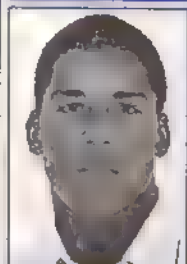
Continued

PRESEASON All-Pac-10 TEAM

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE
KEYSHAWN JOHNSON
WR, Southern California



DEFENSE
DONNIE EDWARDS
LB, UCLA

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE: Isaiah Mustafa, WR, Arizona State
DEFENSE: Daylon McGutcheon, CB/KR, USC

COACH OF THE YEAR

John Robinson, Southern California

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht/Wt	Class
WR	KEYSHAWN JOHNSON, USC	6-4/205	Sr
WR	KEVIN JORDAN, UCLA	6-2/180	Sr
TE	JOSH WILCOX, Oregon	6-2/238	Jr
T	JONATHAN OGDEN, UCLA	6-8/315	Sr
T	NORBERTO GARRIDO, USC	6-7/305	Sr
G	BRAD BADGER, Stanford	6-4/270	Jr
G	FRANK BEEDE, California	6-5/290	Sr
C	MIKE FLANAGAN, UCLA	6-5/281	Sr
QB	DAN WHITE, Arizona	6-5/215	Sr
RB	SHARON SHAH, UCLA	5-11/189	Jr
RB	SHAWN WALTERS, USC	6-0/225	Jr

DEFENSE

E	TEDY BRUSCHI, Arizona	6-1/253	Sr
T	STEVE HOFFMANN, Washington	6-6/260	Sr
T	CHUCK OSBORNE, Arizona	6-2/280	Sr
E	REGAN LPSHAW, California	6-4/245	Jr
LB	DONNIE EDWARDS, UCLA	6-3/216	Sr
LB	JEREMY ASHER, Oregon	6-2/224	Sr
LB	INK ALEAGA, Washington	6-2/225	Jr
CB	ALEX MOLDEN, Oregon	5-10/185	Sr
CB	GREG BURNS, Washington State	5-10/175	Sr
S	BRANDON SANDERS, Arizona	5-10/177	Sr
S	LAWYER MILLOY, Washington	6-2/200	Jr

SPECIALISTS

K	JOHN WALES, Washington	5-9/185	Jr
P	JOHN STONEHOUSE, USC	5-11/210	Sr
KR	RICKY WHITTLE, Oregon	5-9/193	Sr

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

WR	RICHARD DICE, Arizona	6-3/220	Jr
WR	CRISTIN McLEMORE, Oregon	5-11/181	Sr
TE	JOHNNY McWILLIAMS, USC	6-5/245	Sr
T	WILLY RIFE, Oregon	6-5/310	Jr
T	JEFF BUCKEY, Stanford	6-5/285	Sr
G	MATT SOENKSEN, UCLA	6-6/300	Sr
G	ERIC REID, Oregon	6-4/290	Sr
C	MARC McLOSKEY, Washington St.	6-4/308	Sr
QB	DON SHANKLIN, Oregon State	5-11/194	Jr
RB	RICKY WHITTLE, Oregon	5-9/193	Sr
RB	MIKE MITCHELL, Stanford	6-0/210	Jr

DEFENSE

E	TROY BAILEY, Oregon	6-3/270	Sr
T	MATT KENELEY, USC	6-5/285	Jr
T	TOM HOLMES, Oregon State	6-1/271	Sr
E	DWAYNE SANDERS, Washington St.	6-7/255	Sr
LB	CHRIS HAYES, Washington State	6-0/202	Sr
LB	KANE ROGERS, Oregon State	6-0/229	Sr
LB	RICH RUHL, Oregon	6-2/230	Sr
CB	KENNY WHEATON, Oregon	5-9/183	Soph.
CB	JEROD CHERRY, California	6-1/195	Sr
S	SAMMY KNIGHT, USC	6-1/195	Jr
S	REGGIE TONGUE, Oregon State	6-0/194	Sr

SPECIALISTS

K	MATT BELDEN, Oregon	5-10/178	Soph
P	RYAN LONGWELL, California	6-0/180	Jr
KR	NAIL BENJAMIN, California	5-11/185	Jr

FS, 6-2/200, Jr.; Reggie Reiser, CB, 5-10/180, Sr.; David Riche, T, 6-4/265, Jr. Kickers (2): Geoff Prince, P, 5-10/190, Jr.; John Wales, K, 5-9/185, Jr.
Other key returnees: Ernie Corwell, TE, Sr.; Jerry Jensen, LB, Soph.; Lynn Johnson, C, Jr.; Leon Neal, TB, Sr.; Tony Parish, DB, Soph.; Bob Sapp, OT, Jr.; Rashaan Shehee, TB, Soph.
Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Thomas (73 att., 316 yds., 3 TD); Passing: Huard (275 att., 153 comp., 12 INT, 13 TD, 1,887 yds.); Receiving: Thomas (17 rec., 195 yds., 1 TD); Tackles: Milloy (106); Sacks: Devers (7).
Top newcomers: Tony Coats, OT, Fr. (RS); Andre deSaussure, FL, Fr. (RS); Randy Jones, K/WR, Fr.; Benji Olson, G, Fr. (RS); Jerome Patton, SE, Soph. (transfer Arcadia University-Arroyo Soacha).
Site: Seattle Stadium; Husky Stadium (72,500).
Last league title won: 1992

RECORD

Sept. 2 —Arizona State	Oct. 21 —at Arizona
Sept. 16 —at Ohio State	Oct. 28 —So. California
Sept. 23 —Army	Nov. 4 —Oregon
Sept. 30 —at Oregon State	Nov. 11 —at UCLA
Oct. 7 —Notre Dame	Nov. 18 —Washington St.
Oct. 14 —at Stanford	

5. OREGON

Offensive strengths: An 18-year coach and four-year quarterback are gone, but the rest of the Ducks' Rose Bowl offense returns virtually intact. Tailback Ricky Whittle is dynamite when healthy, and true freshman David Crump provides depth. Cristin McLemore and inspirational tight end Josh Wilcox are good targets. Twelve linemen from the Rose Bowl depth chart return, including 340-pound guard Tasi Malepeai and 310-pound tackle Willy Rife.
Offensive weaknesses: Quarterback Tony Graziani won a key game for the Ducks last year subbing for Danny O'Neil. Now he must prove he can do it consistently. The Ducks were oddly efficient last year, ranking ninth in the league in total offense (331 yards a game) but second in scoring

(27.4). They need to show it was no fluke.
Defensive strengths: Oregon's "Gang Green" held opponents to 112 yards rushing per game and intercepted 19 passes. It returns seven starters, three of whom were all-conference. One part-timer, second-team all-league cornerback Kenny Wheaton, also returns, as does Dante Lewis, a starter in 1993 who redshirted (knee injury) last year. Linebackers Rich Ruhl and Jeremy Asher are the defensive hub.

Defensive weaknesses: Wheaton and Alex Molden (49 career deflections) are great cornerbacks, but replacing safeties Chad Cota and Jeff Sherman is problematic. For all their strengths last year, the Ducks ranked last in the league in sacks. And it has been awhile since new defensive coordinator Charlie Waters has been on a college campus.

Special teams: Matt Belden is coming off a good year as a true freshman, when he handled both punting and kicking duties. Whittle should supplant Herman O'Berry on kick returns. Oregon's coverage teams last year were a quiet plus.

Keys to success: Graziani must extend the Ducks' legacy at quarterback (Chris Miller to Bill Musgrave to O'Neil), and coaches must find a new safety to replace Cota, the team's defensive leader in 1994.

Outlook: If it wasn't for a coaching change (former offensive coordinator Mike Bellotti taking over for Rich Brooks), one might pick the Ducks to repeat. The underrated Brooks built a quality program that hit its stride in the last half-decade, with Oregon going to four bowls in the past six years. Bellotti inherits a solid program and doesn't need to change much.

Coach Mike Bellotti says: "People now realize how good a coach Rich was. All of the expectation levels have been raised after going to our first Rose Bowl in 37 years. There's nothing bad about that. The nice part for me is that all of these good things have occurred since I've been here, so there's a positive feeling of continuity."

COACH DATA

Coach: Mike Bellotti (first year; 23-25 overall, 4 years)
1994 record: 9-4 (lost to Penn State in Rose Bowl) Pac-10 7-1, 1st

Key losses: Chad Cota, SS, Steve Hardin, OT; Dwayne Jones, FB; Silla Malepeai, NT; Herman O'Berry, CB; Danny O'Neil, QB; Dino Philyaw, TB; Jeff Sherman, FS



Oregon's "Gang Green" defense returns seven starters, including cornerback Alex Molden.

Starters returning: Offense (8): Mark Gregg, C, 6-3/266, Jr.; Tasi Malepeau, G, 6-2/340, Jr.; Cristin McLemore, FL, 5-11/181, Sr.; Eric Reid, G, 6-4/290, Sr.; Cameron Ricketts, SE, 5-9/177 Jr.; Willy Rife, T, 6-5/310, Jr.; Paul Wiggins, T, 6-3/306, Jr.; Josh Wilcox, TE, 6-2/238, Jr. **Defense (7):** Jeremy Asher, LB, 6-2/224, Sr.; Troy Bailey, E, 6-3/270, Sr.; Paul Jensen, LB, 6-2/227, Sr.; Reggie Jordan, LB, 6-3/240, Jr.; Alex Molden, CB, 5-10/185, Sr.; Rich Ruhl, LB, 6-2/230, Sr.; Mark Schmidt, E, 6-2/272, Jr. **Kickers (1):** Matt Beiden, K/P, 5-10/178, Soph. **Other key returnees:** Brian Collins, FS, Sr.; Tony Graziani, QB, Jr.; Bryant Jackson, NT, Jr.; Dante Lewis, SS, Sr. (RS/knee); Kenny Wheaton, CB, Soph.; Ricky Whittle, TB/KR, Sr. **Returning statistical leaders:** Rushing: Whittle (118 att., 561 yds., 7 TD); Passing: Graziani (69 att., 37 comp., 4 INT, 3 TD, 525 yds.); Receiving: Ricketts (36 rec., 484 yds., 1 TD); Tackler: Ruhl (103); Sackler: Jordan (7). **Top newcomers:** David Crump, TB, Fr.; Derek Krug, LB, Fr.; Justin Wilcox, QB, Fr. **Site:** Eugene, Ore. **Stadium:** Autzen Stadium (41,698) **Last league title won:** 1994

Sept. 2 —at Utah	Oct. 21 —Washington St.
Sept. 9 —Illinois	Oct. 28 —Arizona State
Sept. 16 —at UCLA	Nov. 4 —at Washington
Sept. 23 —Stanford	Nov. 11 —at Arizona
Oct. 7 —Pacific	Nov. 18 —Oregon State
Oct. 14 —at California	

8. CALIFORNIA

Offensive strengths: Not only are Iheanyi Uwaezuoke and Na'il Benjamin uniquely named, they're the best returning receiving tandem in the Pac-10. With a potentially good quarterback in Pat Barnes returning along with 14 scholarship linemen, the offense should improve.

Offensive weaknesses: The Bears averaged 3.4 per rush and ranked ninth in the league in scoring in 1994. Reynard Rutherford ran for more than 700 yards, but he's fumble-prone and doesn't remind anyone of Russell White. Sophomore Tarik Smith will press for the job. With fullback Johnny Tavake potentially ineligible because of academics, the Bears may go to a one-back/two-tight end alignment featuring bookends Sean Bullard and Tony Gonzalez.

Defensive strengths: Keith Gilbertson's pleasant problem is three superb ends in explosive Regan Upshaw, Andy Jacobs and '94 redshirt Duane Clemons. With tackle Brandon Whiting also back, the Bears should improve on last year's defensive

numbers, which were the school's best since 1968 (40 sacks, 92 tackles for losses, 300 yards a game). Schemes are being developed to get all three ends on the field on passing downs.

Defensive weaknesses: As good as the linemen are, there are holes in the back seven following the loss of linebacker Jerrott Willard and three defensive backs. Jerod Cherry, a three-year starter at cornerback, has 4.4 speed but needs help.

Special teams: Ryan Longwell is coming off a miserable season in which he made just 8 of 22 field goals and had four punts blocked. Ignacio Brache, who kicked six field goals of 54 yards or longer in high school last year, will be handed the kicking job while Longwell punts. The Bears ranked first in the Pac-10 in both punt and kickoff returns.

Keys to success: Cal has to find a consistent running game to balance the passing attack and has to hope someone other than linemen can make some big plays on defense.

Outlook: Cal got off to a stumbling start with academic and injury casualties early, lost September games to San Diego State and Hawaii, then lost quarterback Dave Barr for the season. Yet they still were competitive in most games and can cite mistakes (turnovers) for most of the losses. With 31 of 44 players on the two-deep back and a somewhat lighter schedule, the chances of a 4-7 to 7-4 turnaround are plausible.

Coach Keith Gilbertson says: "We competed hard last year, especially down the stretch, and this is the best depth we've ever had on the defensive front. Pat Barnes will have to play himself into the role of a good quarterback. He had both good and disturbing performances last year. I'm not going to make any bold predictions or comments. We're just going to go play."

BEARS DATA

Coach: Keith Gilbertson (17-18, 3 years; 45-27 overall, 5 years) **1994 record:** 4-7 **Pac-10:** 3-5/T5th

Key losses: Dave Barr, QB; Artis Houston, CB; Darrell Miles, FS; Randy Nonhof, OT; Ricky Spears, SS; Brian Thure, OT; Greg Webb, DT; Jerrott Willard, LB

Starters returning: Offense (8): Frank Beede, G, 6-5/290, Sr.; Na'il Benjamin, WR/KR, 5-11/185, Jr.; Sean Bullard, TE, 6-3/225, Jr.; Ben Lynch, C, 6-4/275, Sr.; Reynard Rutherford, TB, 6-1/195, Sr.; Todd Stewart, T, 6-6/280, Jr.; Johnny Tavake, FB, 6-0/240, Jr.; Iheanyi Uwaezuoke, WR, 6-2/195 **Sr. Defense (6):** Jerod Cherry, CB, 6-1/195, Sr.; Andy Jacobs, E, 6-3/250, Jr.; Maurice Johnson, LB, 6-0/235, Sr.; James Sta'worth, LB, 6-4/220, Sr.; Regan Upshaw, E, 6-4/245, Jr.; Brandon Whiting, T, 6-3/275, Soph. **Kicker (1):** Ryan Longwell, K/P, 6-0/180, Jr.

Other key returnees: Pat Barnes, QB, Jr.; Duane Clemons, DE, Jr. (RS/academics); Chris Easley, DL, Soph.; Charles Gilum, DB, Jr. (RS/arm); Tony Gonzalez, TE, Soph.; Andre Rhodes, LB, Soph.; Tarik Smith, TB, Soph. (RS/hamstring). **Returning statistical leaders:** Rushing: Rutherford (183 att., 713 yds., 4 TD); Passing: Barnes (97 att., 65 comp., 4 INT, 3 TD, 738 yds.); Receiving: Uwaezuoke (56 rec., 716 yds., 5 TD); Tackler: Upshaw (59); Sackler: Upshaw (11) **Top newcomers:** Ignacio Brache, K, Fr.; Brian Comer, WR, Jr. (JC); Brent Mallis, FB, Jr. (JC); Jeremy Newberry, DT, Fr. (RS); Kevin Swills, DE, Fr. (RS)

Site: Berkeley, Calif. **Stadium:** Memorial Stadium (75,662) **Last league title won:** 1975

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at San Diego State	Oct. 21 —at Oregon State
Sept. 9 —Fresno State	Oct. 28 —at UCLA
Sept. 23 —San Jose State	Nov. 4 —Washington St.
Sept. 30 —at Arizona	Nov. 11 —Arizona State
Oct. 7 —Southern California	Nov. 18 —at Stanford
Oct. 14 —Oregon	

Continued

BURNING QUESTION

Can the Pacific-10 regain its glory?

The Pac-10's slip is showing.

Once one of the top football leagues in the nation, the Pac-10 has suffered a bit of a reputation erosion over the past few years. To wit:

- After winning 19 of 23 Rose Bowl games against the Big Ten between 1970 and 1992—five by 17 points or more—the Pac-10 has lost three in a row for the first time since the mid-1950s.

- The Pac-10 was 19-14-2 in non-conference games last season, including 3-7 against WAC teams. If you throw out the Pac-10's 5-0 record against Big West teams, the league's non-conference record was .500. From 1984-93, the Pac-10 averaged .632 per season in non-conference play.

- Pac-10 schools continue to lose West Coast preps to other schools. Nebraska won the national title with contributions from Southern Californians Lawrence Phillips and Brenden Stai. Colorado had 11 recruits from California on last year's roster, including Heisman winner Rashaan Salaam of San Diego.

- The NFL has strafed the Pac-10 of many of its star underclassmen. Since underclassmen were allowed to enter the draft in 1990, 11 juniors or redshirt sophomores from the Pac-10 have been selected in the first round, more than from any other conference. The 1995 draft was the first one in which the Pac-10 didn't have at least one underclassman selected in the first round.

"The quality of your talent is dictated by the draft, and the Pac-10 fares well in that area," UCLA Coach Terry Donahue said. "But there's no question that the number of underclassmen leaving has had an effect. No question at all."

The league has other problems, too. Donahue says the Pac-10 trails other conferences in year-round training table allowances. Cal's Keith Gilbertson says the Big Ten and forthcoming Big 12 have better facilities and better walk-on programs.

Reduced scholarship numbers have resulted in a more widespread distribution of talent. When Oregon won the Pac-10 last season, it marked only the second time since 1972 that a school outside the L.A.-Seattle axis went to Pasadena. Eight of the league's 10 teams have won at least 10 conference games over the past three seasons. Of the 40 league games played last season, 24 were decided by two touchdowns or less.

"It is just a league where everybody can beat everyone else," Arizona Coach Dick Tomey said. "That's not a positive for some team winning a national title, but it's a positive for the league."

—BOB KEISSER



California tailback Reynard Rutherford ran for over 700 yards in '94, but he's fumble-prone.

7. OREGON STATE

Offensive strengths: The Beavers' wishbone is a pain to prepare for, and it's getting better. Quarterback Don Shanklin made a huge leap last year, and redshirt freshman Tim Alexander is a solid backup. Two starters, halfback Cam Reynolds and fullback J.D. Stewart, return from a deep backfield that averaged 279 rushing yards a game.

Offensive weaknesses: Halfback J.J. Young will be missed. There's better depth on the line, but only two starters and four lettermen return. There's a potential hole at center if Jamie Critchlow, a junior-college transfer, doesn't develop. Tight ends Justin Moore and Josh Carley missed spring drills because of injuries, and there's no dynamic pass target.

Defensive strengths: The real story at OSU is the development of a talented, intense and deep defense. That's what made the Beavers competitive last year and should again this year. Tackle Tom Holmes is a quick, strong lineman, and Kane Rogers is a fiery linebacker. Free safety Reggie Tongue (with four) is one shy of the NCAA record for interception touchdowns. **Defensive weaknesses:** Rogers is the only returning starter at linebacker, which will put some pressure on the depth up front. While Tongue is back, two four-year starters in the secondary (Michael Hale and William Ephraim) must be replaced.

Special teams: OSU's improvement hasn't extended to the kicking game yet. Randy Lund attempted just seven field goals a year ago and missed six PATs. Doug Stuckey averaged 33.7 yards per punt, and the return teams ranked at the bottom of the league. Redshirt freshman Bret Hopkins will be given a chance to win the punting duties.

Keys to success: The Beavers must maintain the rate of improvement they've shown in recent years and gain more confidence. Filling holes on the offensive line and at linebacker are vital.

Outlook: Five of Oregon State's seven losses were by a combined 34 points, and one pivotal play can be cited in each game. That's a huge change from 1987, when the Beavers' average margin of defeat was 29.4 points a game. Look for Oregon State to be competitive, and with Pacific, North Texas and Division I-AA Idaho on the schedule (and UCLA off), the school's first winning season since 1970 is possible.

Coach Jerry Pettibone says: "Last year was frustrating in the sense that we were a key play away in five games, and we weren't able to make that key play. But it was a valuable learning experience for us to realize how close we really are. It was painful, but really encouraging."

PLAYING DATA

Coach: Jerry Pettibone (10-33-1, 4 years; 43-65-2 overall, 10 years).

1994 record: 4-7 Pac-10; 2-6/7th.

Key losses: Joe Douglass, WR; Packy Ena, DE; William Ephraim, CB; Johnny Feinga, C; John Garrett, OT; Michael Hale, SS; Cory Huot, LB; Sterling Labi, G; Rico Petrine, DB; J.J. Young, HB.

Starters returning: **Offense (6):** Darin Bortler, G, 6-3/289. Sr., Tim Camp, T, 6-7/288. Sr.; Justin Moore, TE, 6-8/262. Sr.; Cam Reynolds, HB, 6-0/203. Sr.; Don Shanklin, QB, 5-11/194. Jr.; J.D. Stewart, FB, 6-1/219. Sr. **Defense (6):** Buster Elahue, CB, 6-0/160. Jr.; Tom Holmes, T, 6-1/271. Sr.; Tony Huot, E, 6-4/261. Jr.; David Kiepke, E, 6-7/276. Sr.; Kane Rogers, LB, 6-0/229. Sr.; Reggie Tongue, FS, 6-0/194. Sr.



Fiery linebacker Kane Rogers is part of a talented, intense and deep Oregon State defense.

Kickers (2): Randy Lund, K, 6-0/187. Soph.; Doug Stuckey, P, 5-11/185. Jr.

Other key returns: Terrance Blackwell, WR, Soph.; Larry Bumpus, SS, Soph.; Josh Carley, TE, Soph.; John Farbank, LB, Sr.; Mark Offord, HB, Sr. (RS/knee); Kelron Sykes, LB, Soph.; Sedrick Thomas, FB, Sr.; Brad Thompson, G, Jr.; Marc Williams, CB, Jr.; Adrian Woodson, SS, Soph. (RS).

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Shanklin (132 att., 630 yds., 6 TD); Passing: Shanklin (73 att., 29 comp., 2 INT, 1 TD, 560 yds.); Receiving: Reynolds (10 rec., 231 yds., 1 TD); Tackler: Rogers (89); Sackler: Rogers (7).

Top newcomers: Tim Alexander, QB, Fr. (RS/collarbone); Troy Antee, DE, Jr. (JC); Jamie Critchlow, C, Jr. (JC); Bret Hopkins, P/K, Fr. (RS); Robert Howard, HB, Fr. (RS); Darron Krikman, FB, Jr. (JC); Garon McGuin, LB, Jr. (JC); John Mikucic, TE, Jr. (JC); DeShawn Williams, HB, Fr. (RS); Sean Williams, CB, Fr. (RS).

Site: Corvallis Ore. Stadium; Parker Stadium (35,360).

Last league title won: 1964

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Idaho	Oct. 21 —California
Sept. 9 —at Pacific	Oct. 28 —at Stanford
Sept. 16 —at North Texas	Nov. 4 —Arizona
Sept. 23 —at Arizona State	Nov. 11 —So. California
Sept. 30 —Washington	Nov. 18 —at Oregon
Oct. 7 —at Washington State	

8. WASHINGTON STATE

Offensive strengths: A year of experience will help quarterback Chad Davis, who was tentative at times in 1994 but had a good spring. The top three returning receivers—Chad Carpenter, Jay Dumas and Eric Moore—combined for 99 catches. Michael Jackson, who sat out last season with a knee injury, will enable the Cougars to use a two-tight end alignment on occasion.

Defensive weaknesses: Washington State didn't run last year, it stumbled. Three starters are gone from the line, and returning backs Frank Madu and Derek Sparks missed spring drills. Unless junior-college transfer Major Norton or freshman Earl Riley step up, the Cougars will tiptoe again. **Defensive strengths:** Despite losing eight starters off a unit that allowed 223 yards a game, the Cougars feel their defense will be solid. End Dwayne Sanders, linebacker Chris Hayes and cornerback Greg Burns ('94 medical redshirt) are key. Reserves such as tackle Leon Bender and linebacker James Darling played a lot last season, and junior-college transfer Da'Vid Evans is expected to complement Sanders up front.

Defensive weaknesses: There's a lack of depth in the front seven, so staying healthy will be vital. The secondary, a Cougars strong suit the past four years, is inexperienced and unproven aside from Burns.

Special teams: Lackluster a year ago, lackluster again? Kicker Tony Truant missed nine of 18 field goals, including four inside 40 yards. Punter George Martin had two kicks blocked. Dumas' 7.4-yard punt-return average was modest considering his talent. **Keys to success:** Washington State has to find a running game to take some pressure off Davis and fill holes and find depth on defense.

Outlook: No matter how confident the Cougars may be, they have a lot of impact players to replace on defense. With no sure things in the running game, either, a decline can be expected there. But everyone expected a decline last year, too, and the Cougars finished 8-4.

Coach Mike Price says: "People don't realize what our record the last three or four years is, and how successful we've been on both offense and defense. What we need most is to be picked dead last again. Everyone did a good job of that last year. Please help us out again."

COUGARS DATA

Coach: Mike Price (35-33, 7 years; 81-77 overall, 15 years).

1994 record: 8-4 (beat Baylor in Alamo Bowl); Pac-10: 5-3/4th.

Key losses: Ron Childs, LB; Chad Easton, DT; Mark Fields, LB; Torrey Hunter, CB; Albert Kennedy, FL; Ron Lewis, G; Singor Mobley, SS; DeWayne Patterson, DE; Paul Reed, G; Clay Reis, OT; John Rushing, FS; Don Sasa, DT.

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Chad Carpenter, SE, 6-1/200. Jr.; Chad Davis, QB, 6-2/200. Jr.; Jay Dumas, RB, 6-2/170. Sr.; Frank Madu, RB, 5-9/170. Sr.; Marc McCloskey, C, 6-4/308. Sr.; Eric Moore, TE, 6-5/240. Sr.; Scott Sanderson, T, 6-7/290. Jr. **Defense (3):** Chris Hayes, LB, 6-0/202. Sr.; Dwayne Sanders, E, 6-7/255. Sr.; Brian Walker, CB, 6-1/180. Sr. **Kickers (2):** George Martin, P, 6-3/193. Sr.; Tony Truant, K, 5-10/174. Jr.

Other key returns: Leon Bender, DT, Jr.; Robert Booth, DE, Sr.; Greg Burns, CB, Sr. (RS/knee); James Darling, LB, Jr.; Derek Henderson, SS, Jr.; Ray Jackson, FS, Jr.; Jason McDendoo, G, Soph.; John Soukanev, OT, Sr.; Derek Sparks, RB, Sr.; Bryant Thomas, WR, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Madu (143 att., 494 yds., 1 TD); Passing: Davis (339 att., 197 comp., 6 INT, 10 TD, 2,299 yds.); Receiving: Dumas (41 rec., 402 yds., 1 TD); Tackler: Hayes (74); Sackler: Sanders (5).

Top newcomers: All Evans, RB, Soph. (Prop 48); Da'Vid Evans, DE, Jr. (JC); Shad Hinchey, DB/RB, Jr. (JC); Michael Jackson, TE, Fr. (RS/knee); Ryan Leaf, QB, Fr. (RS); Major Norton, RB, Soph. (JC); Earl Riley, RB, Fr.

Site: Pullman, Wash. Stadium; Martin Stadium (40,000).

Last league title won: 1930

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Pittsburgh	Oct. 21 —at Oregon
Sept. 9 —Montana	Oct. 28 —Arizona
Sept. 23 —UCLA	Nov. 4 —at California
Sept. 30 —at Nebraska	Nov. 11 —Stanford
Oct. 7 —Oregon State	Nov. 18 —at Washington
Oct. 14 —at Southern California	

9. ARIZONA STATE

Offensive strengths: Jake (The Snake) Plummer has thrown 24 touchdown passes in 17 career starts and was intercepted just twice in the last five games of 1994. He has a deep assortment of running backs behind him, including senior Chris Hopkins, sophomores Terry Battle and Marlon Farlow, '94 medical casualty Michael Martin and redshirt freshman Brian Singleton.

Offensive weaknesses: Plummer was pounded into the ground often last year (36 sacks), and the line looks similar despite

the presence of 6-foot-8, 313-pound tackle Juan Roque. The Devils must be more efficient on offense (they converted just 30.9 percent of their third-down opportunities and led the league in penalties) and find a complement to Keith Poole, their only proven receiver. Junior-college transfer Isaiah Mustafa has been compared to J.J. Stokes.

Defensive strengths: Not many. A team that allowed 441 yards and 31.5 points a game is just hoping its young survivors will mature. One immediate goal is to be faster. There's depth on the line, and the return of sixth-year linebacker Justin Dragoo should help team leadership.

Defensive weaknesses: Opponents completed 63 percent of their passes and averaged 288 yards per game against a secondary that included the talented Craig Newsome. With him gone, junior-college transfer Traivon Johnson and redshirt freshmen Lamont Morgan and Mitchell Freedman must be better than the returnees. Freedman is a David Fulcher-type safety.

Special teams: Another junior-college transfer, Robert Nycz, will replace Jon Baker as the kicker. Punter Lance Anderson averaged 42.7 yards a kick the last five games after recovering from an early-season knee injury. Battle and Hopkins will return kicks.

Keys to success: The Sun Devils must stay healthy and find depth. They documented 700 injuries that cost a player a game or practice time last season. Of the

Devils' 75 scholarship players last year, 15 were redshirting freshmen and 10 were former walk-ons.

Outlook: It isn't rosy. The 3-8 record was ASU's worst since 1946, and there was grumbling in Tempe even though the reasons for the slide were apparent. Just like '94, this is a rebuilding year. Coach Bruce Snyder hopes the 19 freshmen who lettered will improve and gel with the red-shirts and nine junior-college players he brought in.

Coach Bruce Snyder says: "The upside from last year is that we played a lot of young players and it will help us down the road. It's no mystery (why the numbers are down). From the human side, you hate to be criticized and hate to fail, so there's a great deal of pain. But on the other side, I know why things have happened and I'm probably a better coach now."

SUN DEVILS DATA

Coach: Bruce Snyder (15-18, 3 years; 83-79-6 overall, 15 years)
1994 record: 3-8 Pac-10: 2-6/77th

Key losses: Jon Baker, K; Eddie Cade, FS; Parnell Charles, FB; Jason Kyle, LB; Jeff Kysar, OT; Dan Lucas, LB; Clyde McCoy, WR; Matt Nelson, TE; Craig Newsome, CB; Kendall Rhyme, LB; Eric Schmidt, DE; Ken Talanoa, DT; DeMarco Vaughn, OT

Starters returning: Offense (5): Chris Hopkins, TB, 6-0/189, Sr.; Jake Plummer, QB, 6-2/183, Jr.; Keith Poole, WR, 6-2/177, Jr.; Juan Roque, T, 6-8/313, Jr.; Pat Thompson, G, 6-1/303, Jr. Defense (5): Brent Burnstein, E, 6-8/241, Jr.; Traivon Johnson, CB, 6-0/186, Jr.; Harlen Rashada, DB, 6-2/201, Sr.; Marcus Soward, CB, 5-11/179, Sr.; Shawn Swayda, T, 6-4/273, Jr.

Kickers (1): Lance Anderson, P, 6-1/216, Jr.
Other key returnees: Terry Battle, TB, Soph.; Steve Bush, TE, Jr. (RS/knee); Justin Dragoo, LB, Sr. (RS/knee); Marlon Farlow, TB, Soph.; Glen Gabie, OT, Soph.; Michael Martin, TB, Soph. (RS/knee); Kirk Robertson, C, Jr.; Ty Wade, LB, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Hopkins (168 att., 680 yds., 2 TD); Passing: Plummer (294 att., 159 comp., 9 INT, 15 TD, 2,179 yds.); Receiving: Poole (31 rec., 669 yds., 6 TD); Tackler: Rashada (81); Sacker: Mike Langridge (3).

Top newcomers: Mitchell Freedman, FS, Fr. (RS); Traivon Johnson, CB, Jr. (JC); Devin Kendall, TE, Jr. (JC); Lamont Morgan, CB, Fr. (RS); Isaiah Mustafa, WR, Jr. (JC); Robert Nycz, K, Jr. (JC); Brian Singleton, RB, Fr. (RS); Derek Smith, LB, Jr. (JC); Scott Von der Ahe, LB, Jr. (transfer/Iowa).
Site: Tempe, Ariz. **Stadium:** Sun Devil Stadium (73,656)
Last league title won: 1986 (Ite)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Washington	Oct. 14 —Brigham Young
Sept. 9 —Texas-El Paso	Oct. 28 —at Oregon
Sept. 16 —at Nebraska	Nov. 4 —UCLA
Sept. 23 —Oregon State	Nov. 11 —at California
Sept. 30 —at So. California	Nov. 24 —Arizona
Oct. 7 —Stanford	

10. STANFORD

Offensive strengths: There's more returning talent than one would assume on a team that lost Steve Stenstrom. Anthony Bookman and Mike Mitchell form a nice 1-2 punch at tailback, and Brian Manning averaged nearly 20 yards on 46 catches. Three starters return on the line, including Brad Badger and Jeff Buckley.

Offensive weaknesses: Anytime you lose a quarterback who started 41 consecutive games, there's going to be a dropoff. In Stanford's case, it may be more like a cliff fall. Mark Butterfield is a fifth-year senior who has attempted 51 career passes, and junior Tim Carey has yet to take a snap. Except for Manning, there are no reliable targets. This Cardinal will walk before it flies.

Defensive strengths: It's a short list. Stanford allowed 194 rushing yards per game and ranked 95th in Division I-A in scoring defense. Eighteen players who

have made at least one start return, which, in this case, may not be good. It's hoped a switch to a 4-3 will turn end Jason White into an impact pass rusher.

Defensive weaknesses: Constant change, several injuries, too much youth and a lack of talent at some positions led to problems last year. New Coach Tyrone Willingham's first priority, besides the alignment switch, is to give the defense some stability.

Special teams: Eric Abrams made only half of his 18 field-goal attempts; on a team that lost three games by one point and tied another, that's significant. Kevin Miller replaces Aaron Mills as the punter. Bookman and Damon Dunn have potential as return men.

Keys to success: Stanford needs to establish a running game capable of taking some pressure off the new quarterback. There's room for a lot of improvement on defense.

Outlook: The return of Bill Walsh as coach three years ago ultimately backfired—the Cardinal ended '94 a dispirited, moody team. With him gone, some of those problems will disappear, and Willingham, who previously was an assistant with the Minnesota Vikings, should enjoy a short honeymoon. Add seven points to last year's offense and the Cardinal would have been 7-4, so he's not inheriting an empty program. Willingham's forte is the running game, and the Cardinal has some talent there—but not enough to overcome a weak defense.

Coach Tyrone Willingham says: "The team last year was close to being a success at times, and at other times didn't play at the level it could. What we're going to try to do is develop an offense that can run and control the ball. Last year's team scored so quickly and frequently that it forced a young defense to play a lot and exposed its weaknesses."

CARDINAL DATA

Coach: Tyrone Willingham (1st year)
1994 record: 3-7-1 Pac-10: 2-6/77th

Key losses: Elhan Allen, FB; Justin Armour, WR; Tony Cline, TE; Seth Dittman, OT; Jason Fisk, NT; Coy Gibbs, LB; Mike Jerich, G; Aaron Mills, P; Steve Stenstrom, QB.

Starters returning: Offense (5): Brad Badger, G, 6-4/270, Jr.; Anthony Bookman, RB, 5-9/170, Soph.; Jeff Buckley, T, 6-5/285, Sr.; T.J. Gaynor, C, 6-4/290, Sr.; Brian Manning, FL, 5-11/177, Jr. Defense (9): Mike Hall, LB, 6-2/230, Sr.; Kadar Hamilton, SS, 6-0/200, Soph.; Jon Haskins, LB, 6-3/240, Soph.; Leroy Pruitt, CB, 5-9/170, Jr.; Pete Swanson, T, 6-5/290, Jr.; Jami Webb, CB, 5-9/170, Jr.; Jason White, E, 6-3/240, Sr.; Kailee Wong, E, 6-4/250, Soph.; Charles Young, FS, 5-11/195, Jr. Kickers (1): Eric Abrams, K, 5-9/165, Sr.

Other key returnees: Brian Balson, LB, Jr.; Mark Butterfield, QB, Sr.; David Carder, DT, Sr.; Tim Carey, QB, Jr.; Damon Dunn, FL, Soph.; Mark Harris, WR, Sr.; John Hebert, NT, Sr.; Kevin Miller, P, Soph.; Mike Mitchell, RB, Jr.; Adam Salina, FB, Jr.; Elliot Swinton, SS, Jr.; David Walker, SS, Sr.; Bryan Warner, DE, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Bookman (129 att., 577 yds., 7 TD); Passing: Butterfield (11 att., 5 comp., 1 INT, 0 TD, 72 yds.); Receiving: Manning (46 rec., 899 yds., 5 TD); Tackler: Hall (75); Sacker: Swanson (6).

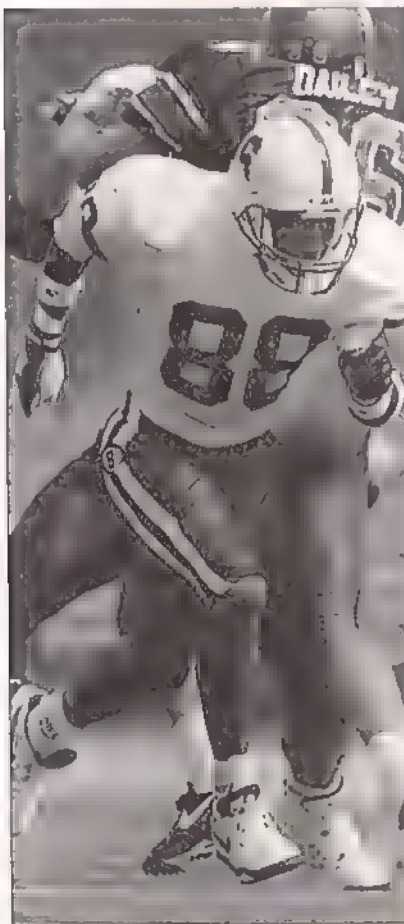
Top newcomers: Greg Clark, TE, Jr. (JC); Greg Hairston, CB, Jr. (JC); Derek Hubbard, TE, Jr. (JC); Tim Smith, QB, Fr; Brian Toner, LB, Fr.; Tony Vella, TE, Fr.

Site: Palo Alto, Calif. **Stadium:** Stanford Stadium (85,500).
Last league title won: 1992 (Ite)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at San Jose State	Oct. 21 —UCLA
Sept. 9 —at Utah	Oct. 28 —Oregon State
Sept. 16 —Wisconsin	Nov. 4 —at So. California
Sept. 23 —at Oregon	Nov. 11 —at Washington St.
Oct. 7 —at Arizona State	Nov. 18 —California
Oct. 14 —Washington	

Bob Keisser is a columnist for the Long Beach (Calif.) Press-Telegram.



Other than Brian Manning, Stanford has no reliable wide receivers.

SCOUTING THE PAC-10

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive backfield:	Oregon State.
Best wide receivers:	California.
Best offensive line:	UCLA.
Best defensive line:	California.
Best linebackers:	Oregon.
Best secondary:	Washington.
Best special teams:	Southern California.
Hardest hitter:	Donnie Edwards, LB, UCLA.
Best backup quarterback:	Tim Alexander, OSU.
Best pro prospect:	Keyshawn Johnson, WR, USC.
Best stadium:	Husky Stadium, Washington.
Best rivalry:	USC-UCLA.

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. Southern California (Best recruit: CB/KR Dayton McCutcheon. McCutcheon, who should contribute immediately, headlines a small but powerful class that includes two quarterbacks and three offensive linemen.)
2. Arizona (RB Mika Smith)
3. Washington (QB Brock Huard)
4. UCLA (WR Ryan Roques)
5. Stanford (OL Matt Motherway)
6. Oregon State (FB Derrick Poole)
7. Oregon (RB David Crump)
8. Arizona State (WR Kenny Mitchell)
9. California (PK Ignacio Brache)
10. Washington State (DE Eboni Wilson)

Ascending: Oregon State. The last time the Beavers had a winning season was 1970. The 1995 season offers their best chance since. Jerry Pettibone's past two teams were 4-7; more importantly, they were competitive, which is a big change from recent years.

Descending: Arizona State. The Sun Devils had great hopes when they hired Bruce Snyder away from Cal in 1992, but they are suffering from a severe attrition of players recently. There were only seven scholarship seniors on last year's team from the Class of 1990, and there will be only three this year from the Class of '91, and they aren't expected to contribute.

Nightmare schedule: Arizona State. As if it doesn't have enough problems, ASU's first five games include road trips to Washington, Nebraska and USC. BYU also is on the schedule.

Dream schedule: Oregon State. The Beavers open with Idaho, Pacific and North Texas. They also miss UCLA and get Washington, Arizona and USC at home.

Best matchup of the year: USC at Notre Dame, October 21. The Trojans haven't beaten the Irish since John Robinson's first tour of duty at USC (1982). They're due, and they're good.

Worst matchup of the year: Army at Washington, September 23. Is this game necessary?

Shocker of the year: Oregon State over USC, November 11. No one is expecting it, but the Beavers will be in the Pac-10 race come November.

Bowl bound: USC and Arizona, for sure. UCLA, Washington, Oregon and Cal have a chance.

Biggest shoes to fill: Can either Washington running back Napoleon Kaufman or Stanford quarterback Steve Stenstrom truly be replaced? Mark Butterfield and Tim Carey are in line to replace Stenstrom, while Washington is expected to use more one-back sets with fullback Richard Thomas.

Most underrated player: Oregon State quarterback Don Shanklin. This guy isn't respected for his running in a conference devoted to throwers.

Most overrated player: How about most overrated position? The Pac-10 has a rich tradition at quarterback, but this year's crop doesn't compare to the greats of the past. Not one returning quarterback completed 60 percent of his passes or threw for more than 2,200 yards last season.

Best head coach: Terry Donahue, UCLA. After enduring two decades of alumni whining and media bashing in L.A., he's just four victories shy of surpassing Don James as the Pac-10's all-time winningest coach in league play.

Best coaching staff: Southern California. The staff is solid. Offensive coordinator Mike Riley is considered one of the hot young coaches in the game, an innovative, creative mind who soon will

time winningest coach. . . . The league's top four returning running backs—UCLA's Sharmon Shah, USC's Shawn Walters, Cal's Reynard Rutherford and Arizona State's Chris Hopkins—won't necessarily be the top four backs on their respective teams in 1995 because of stiff competition. . . . Look for a lot of long plays. Seven of the conference's top 10 receivers (in yardage) are back, as are several special teams stars who had big plays last year. Stanford's Damon Dunn had a 100-yard kickoff return, Oregon's Ricky Whittle returned kicks for 92 and 86 yards, and Cal's Na'il Benjamin had a 53-yard punt return. . . . Oregon's Jeremy Asher will make more than 100 tackles. . . . Keyshawn Johnson will break all of USC's single-season receiving records. His 66 catches last year were third-best in school history, and he became one of only three Trojans to have a 1,000-yard receiving season.

Odds and ends: After 14 years of playing on artificial turf, Cal returns to a grass field at Memorial Stadium. At a cost of \$1.5 million, the rug was yanked and sod planted. Cal was 44-34-3 at home in its 14 years on the artificial surface. . . . Oregon's Mike Bellotti is the fifth coach in modern Pac-10 history to inherit a conference champ. None of the others was able to repeat: Dee Andros at Oregon State in 1965 (succeeding Tommy Prothro), Jack Christiansen at Stanford in 1972 (John Ralston), Donahue at UCLA in 1976 (Dick Vermeil) and Jim Lambright at Washington in 1993 (James). . . . The best quarterback in the conference may be Cal's Pat Barnes, who would have ranked 29th nationally and fourth in the Pac-10 in efficiency (132.9) if he had thrown enough passes. Gilbertson may live to regret letting Barnes play one game as a true freshman in 1993, which cost him a year of eligibility. . . . Arizona State linebacker Justin Drago is awarded a medical hardship sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA. He has played in only 18 games because of knee and chest injuries. Drago, 23, who is in his second year of business grad school, has been dubbed "The Old Man" by teammates. . . . Cal tight end Tony Gonzalez is the only athlete in America who can claim victories over UCLA in both football and basketball last season. Gonzalez also is a forward for the Cal basketball team. . . . Oregon's offense has averaged more than 4,000 net yards a season since Bellotti joined the program as offensive coordinator in 1989. . . . Tyrone Willingham, the new coach at Stanford, was a walk-on in football and baseball at Michigan State and lettered three years in both sports. . . . Arizona (10) and Arizona State (nine) both went the junior-college route in recruiting. A year after USC signed nine junior-college players, UCLA filled holes with four. Even Stanford signed three.

—BOB KEISSER



UCLA linebacker Donnie Edwards doesn't need to be told how to hit.

be running his own team.

Coach on the hot seat: No chairs are hot, but some are warm. A losing season would be Keith Gilbertson's third in four years at Cal.

Best bets: Dick Tomey will get the seven wins he needs to become Arizona's all-

I. NEBRASKA

Offensive strengths: The 'Huskers you got to know are back. Tommie Frazier and Brook Berringer might be the two best quarterbacks in the league, and running back Lawrence Phillips will make a run for the Heisman.

Offensive weaknesses: The 'Huskers you didn't get to know are gone. The line, which was together for three years and shut the mouth of Miami's Warren Sapp in the Orange Bowl, returns just one starter, center Aaron Graham. The line still will be good, as always, but it won't wear out defenses like last year's did.

Defensive strengths: Linemen. The 'Huskers have a lot of big, mean, strong, fast, experienced linemen.

Defensive weaknesses: The secondary is young and has no depth. Because of that, there could be a return to the old days when top passing teams could throw on Nebraska as much as they wanted.

Special teams: They could be great—or a flop. It's up to Darin Erstad. He has the best leg in the Big Eight, but he might not return if his baseball prospects stay high. If Erstad goes, freshmen take over.

Keys to success: Erstad must stay and the offensive line must develop new stars fast.

Outlook: The 'Huskers finally enter a season without having to explain why they can't win The Big One. They have enough to make another run at the national title—star quarterback and running back, dominating defensive front, big offensive line, favorable schedule. But the offensive line won't do it all like last year. In other words, they might not win The Big One.

Coach Tom Osborne says: "You can spend so much time celebrating that you forget to come out and play the next year. That's always a danger."

COACH/USERS DATA

Coach: Tom Osborne (219-47-3, 22 years)

1994 record: 13-0 (beat Miami in Orange Bowl) Big Eight 7-0 1st

Key losses: Tony Connealy, DT; Troy Dumas, LB; Dwayne Harris, LB; Donta Jones, LB; Barron Miles, CB; Kareem Moss, SS; Abdul Muhammad, WR; Cory Schlesinger, FB; Matt Shaw, TE; Tom Stielor, K; Brendan Stal, G; Ed Stewart,

BIG EIGHT

Conference Rank: 4

By GREG COUCH

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. NEBRASKA
2. COLORADO
3. KANSAS STATE
4. OKLAHOMA
5. KANSAS
6. MISSOURI
7. OKLAHOMA STATE
8. IOWA STATE

LB, Zach Wiegert, OT, Joel Wilks, G, Rob Zatechka, OT
Starters returning: Offense (4): Reggie Baul, SE, 5-8/170. Sr. Aaron Graham, C, 6-4/280, Sr. Tommie Frazier, QB, 6-2/205, Sr. Lawrence Phillips, RB, 6-0/215, Jr. Defense (5): Doug Colman, LB, 6-3/240, Sr. Phil Ellis, LB, 6-2/225, Sr. Christian Peter, T, 6-2/290, Sr. Tony Veland, FS, 6-2/205, Sr. Tyrone Williams, CB, 6-0/185 Sr. Kickers (1): Darin Erstad, P/K, 6-2/200, Jr.

Other key returnees: Eric Anderson, OT, Soph. Damon Benning, RB, Jr.; Brook Berringer, QB, Sr.; Clinton Childs, RB, Sr.; Leslie Dennis, CB, Soph. Chris Dishman, OT, Jr. Mark Gilman, TE, Sr.; Brendan Holbein, SE, Soph.; Clester Johnson, WR, Sr.; Jeff Makovicka, FB, Jr. Mike Minter, SS, Jr. Steve Ott, G, Sr. Jason Peter, DT, Soph.; Eric Stokes, CB/FS, Jr.; Aaron Taylor, G, Soph. Jared Tomich, OLB, Jr. Grant Wistrom, LB, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing, Phillips (266 att., 1,722 yds., 18 TD) Passing, Berringer (151 att., 84 comp 5 INT, 10 TD, 1,295 yds.); Receiving, Phillips (22 rec., 172 yds., 0 TD); Tackler, Peter (71); Sackler, Peter (7)

Top newcomers: Kris Brown, K, Fr.; Tray Crayton, FS, Fr. (RS), Ahman Green, RB, Fr.; Sheldon Jackson, TE, Fr. (RS), Brian Knuckles, RB, Jr. (RS/JC), Tony Ortiz, LB, Fr., Mike Flucker, LB, Fr. (RS) Eric Warfield, FS, Soph. (Prop 48) Shevin Wiggins, WB, Soph. (Prop 48)

Site: Lincoln, Neb. Stadium: Memorial Stadium (72,700)

Last league title won: 1994

Special teams: Kicker Neil Voskeritchian has the nickname "Kevorkian" and it's not because he kills opponents. Going to him is suicide. Punter Andy Mitchell, a disappointment in '94, went to the Ray Pelfrey camp this summer and should be better.

Keys to success: Quarterback Koy Detmer must be as good as advertised. The defensive line, with plans to blitz more, must get to the quarterback fast because the cornerbacks won't be able to cover top receivers.

Outlook: Colorado is Nebraska in reverse. The star players on offense—Salaam, receiver Michael Westbrook, tight end Christian Fauria and quarterback Kordell Stewart—are gone. But the linemen are back. With so many losses, and the need to adjust to a new coach, the thinking seems to be that the Buffs will fail. Don't count on it. Colorado can't replace all its lost stars, but the line will provide Detmer plenty of time and Troutman plenty of holes. CU will pass more than it has in the past, and that is a gamble; bad weather in the Big Eight has caused passing teams to struggle. The defense has given up the 3-4 in favor of the 4-3, and has been told to attack.

Coach Rick Neuheisel says: "I promise you we'll get down the field just as fast as we used to."

BUFFALOES DATA

Coach: Rick Neuheisel (1st year)

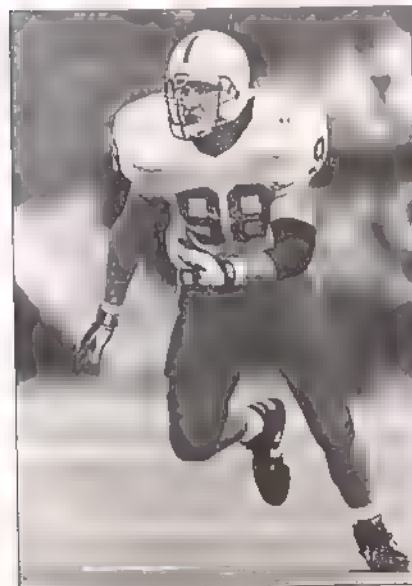
1994 record: 11-1 (beat Notre Dame in Fiesta Bowl) Big Eight 6-1/2nd

Key losses: Tony Berti, OT; Shannon Clavelle, OT (declared for NFL draft); Christian Fauria, TE; Darius Holland, OT; Chns Hudson, CB; Ted Johnson, LB Rashaan Salaam, TB (declared for NFL draft); Kordell Stewart, QB; Derek West, OT; Michael Westbrook, WR

Starters returning: Offense (5): Rae Caruth, WR, 6-0/180, Jr.; Heath Irwin, G, 6-5/280, Sr. Matt Lepels, TE, 6-5/250, Jr.; Chns Naeole, G, 6-4/280, Jr.; Bryan Stoltzberg, C, 6-2/265, Sr. Defense (7): Kerry Hicks, NT, 6-6/280, Sr.; Greg Jones, LB/DE, 6-4/230, Jr.; Donnell Leomiti, SS, 6-0/205, Sr. Mike Phillips, LB, 6-3/210, Soph.; Steve Rosga, FS, 6-1/205, Jr.; Matt Russell, LB, 6-2/235, Jr.; Dalton Simmons, CB, 6-0/180, Sr. Kickers (2): Andy Mitchell, P, 6-2/195, Soph.; Neil Voskeritchian, K, 5-9/185, Sr.

Other key returnees: T.J. Cunningham, FS, Sr.; Elton Davis, CB, Soph.; Koy Detmer, QB, Jr.; James Kidd, WR, Jr.; Ron Merkerson, LB, Soph.; Clint Moore, OT, Sr.; Daryl Price, OT, Sr.; Phil Savoy, WR, Soph.; Deren Tadlock, CB, Jr.; Melvin Thomas, OT, Soph.; Herchel Troutman, TB, Soph.

Continued



Linebacker Grant Wistrom will help lead Nebraska's defense of its national title.

Sept. 9 —at Michigan State	Oct. 21 —Kansas State
Sept. 16 —Arizona State	Oct. 28 —at Colorado
Sept. 23 —Pacific	Nov. 4 —Iowa State
Sept. 30 —Washington State	Nov. 11 —at Kansas
Oct. 7 —at Oklahoma State	Nov. 24 —Oklahoma
Oct. 14 —Missouri	

II. COLORADO

Offensive strengths: Opposing defenses had better plan on covering Colorado's receivers for a while—they won't get past this offensive line.

Offensive weaknesses: The Buffs will be hard-pressed to replace Heisman Trophy-winning tailback Rashaan Salaam. Sophomore Herchel Troutman, who might be a year away from stardom, gets first shot.

Defensive strengths: Speed in the front seven, especially among the linebackers, should allow the revamped defense a chance to pressure offenses.

Defensive weaknesses: Cornerback has been a problem the past three years. Now, the Buffs lose Thorpe Award winner Chris Hudson, and probably Dalton Simmons, who hurt his knee in the Fiesta Bowl.



Speedy linebackers like Matt Russell will help Colorado's revamped defense pressure foes.

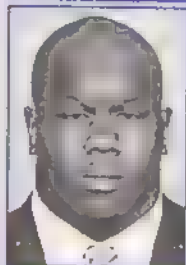
PRESEASON ALL-BIG EIGHT TEAM

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE

LAWRENCE PHILLIPS
RB Nebraska



DEFENSE

TIM COLSTON
T Kansas State

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE: Eric Moore, QB, Oklahoma
DEFENSE: Henry Thomas, T, Missouri

COACH OF THE YEAR

Tom Osborne, Nebraska

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	KEVIN LOCKETT, Kansas State	6-0/175	Jr
WR	RAE CARRUTH, Colorado	6-0/180	Jr
TE	STEPHEN ALEXANDER, Oklahoma	6-5/224	Soph
T	TIM COLTON, Iowa State	6-5/298	Jr
T	HARRY STANFIS, Oklahoma	6-5/304	Sr
G	CHRIS NAEDEL, Colorado	6-4/280	Jr
G	HEATH RYAN, Colorado	6-5/280	Sr
C	BRYAN STOKTENBERG, Colorado	6-2/265	Sr
QB	TOMMYE FRAZIER, Nebraska	6-2/205	Sr
RB	LAWRENCE PHILLIPS, Nebraska	6-0/215	Jr
RB	ANDRE RICHARDSON, Iowa State	5-9/175	Soph

DEFENSE

E	CEDRIC JONES, Oklahoma	6-4/267	Sr
T	TIM COLSTON, Kansas State	6-1/275	Sr
E	NYLE WIREN, Kansas State	6-1/245	Jr
LB	GREG JONES, Colorado	6-4/230	Jr
LB	DOLG COLEMAN, Nebraska	6-3/240	Sr
LB	MATT RUSSELL, Colorado	6-2/235	Jr
LB	TYRRELL PETERS, Oklahoma	6-1/218	Jr
CB	DARRYL JOHNSON, Oklahoma	5-9/180	Sr
CB	JOE GORDON, Kansas State	5-9/175	Jr
S	CHUCK MARLOWE, Kansas State	6-1/185	Sr
S	DONALD LEONIT, Colorado	6-0/205	Sr

SPECIALISTS

K	JEFF McCORD, Kansas	5-9/215	Soph
P	GREG VY, Oklahoma State	6-0/190	Sr
KR	ASHAUNDA SMITH, Kansas	5-6/160	Sr

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	RAHSETNU JENKINS, Missouri	6-2/170	Jr
WR	TYSON SCHWIEGER, Kansas State	5-10/160	Sr
TE	MATT LEPSIS, Colorado	6-5/250	Jr
T	CHRIS DISMAN, Nebraska	6-2/300	Jr
T	ROD JONES, Kansas	6-4/300	Sr
G	CHRIS BANKS, Kansas	6-2/285	Sr
G	AARON TAYLOR, Nebraska	6-1/295	Soph
C	AARON GRAHAM, Nebraska	6-4/280	Sr
QB	KOY DETMER, Colorado	6-1/170	Jr
RB	JERALD MOORE, Oklahoma	5-10/226	Jr
RB	JUNE HENLEY, Kansas	5-11/205	Jr

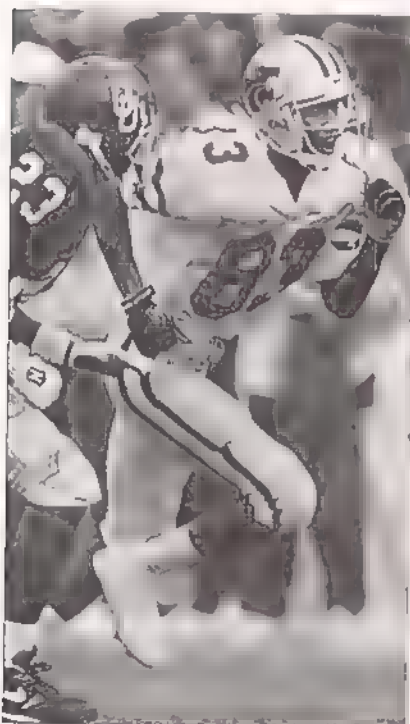
DEFENSE

E	JEVON LANGFORD, Oklahoma State	6-5/260	Jr
T	KERRY HICKS, Colorado	6-6/260	Sr
T	CHRISTIAN PETER, Nebraska	6-2/290	Sr
E	DIRK OCHS, Kansas State	6-4/250	Sr
LB	DARRYL CHATMAN, Missouri	6-1/226	Jr
LB	GRAFT WISTROM, Nebraska	6-5/235	Soph
LB	TIM SANDERS, Iowa State	6-0/209	Jr
CB	TYRONE WILLIAMS, Nebraska	6-0/185	Sr
CB	CHRIS CANTY, Kansas State	5-10/190	Soph
S	DE'VONT E. CROSS, Missouri	6-4/202	Jr
S	STEVE ROSGA, Colorado	6-1/205	Jr

SPECIALISTS

K	LAWSON VAUGHN, Oklahoma State	6-0/180	Sr
P	MARC HARRIS, Iowa State	5-11/198	Jr
KR	DARRYL JOHNSON, Oklahoma	5-9/180	Sr

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Troutman (49 att., 244 yds., 8 TD); Passing: Detmer (19 att., 10 comp., 1 INT, 2 TD, 171 yds.); Receiving: Savoy (17 rec., 283 yds., 1 TD); Tackler: Russell (105); Sackler: Jones (8.5)
Top newcomers: Terrell Gade, LB, Fr (RS); Coleman Johnson, C, Fr (RS); Clifton Peters, LB, Fr (RS); Nick Ziegler, OT, Fr (RS)
Site: Boulder, Colo. **Stadium:** Folsom Field (51,748)
Last league title won: 1991



Speedy junior Kevin Lockett is part of a superb receiving duo for Kansas State.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Wisconsin	Oct. 21 —at Iowa State
Sept. 9 —Colorado State	Oct. 28 —Nebraska
Sept. 16 —Northeast Louisiana	Nov. 4 —at Oklahoma State
Sept. 23 —Texas A&M	Nov. 11 —Missouri
Sept. 30 —at Oklahoma	Nov. 18 —at Kansas State
Oct. 7 —Kansas	

3. KANSAS STATE

Offensive strengths: In Kevin Lockett and Tyson Schwieger, the Wildcats have the best receiving tandem in the league. You'll see a lot of these guys on ESPN.

Offensive weaknesses: Everything else. In the Aloha Bowl, Boston College's defensive linemen found that the shortest distance between them and quarterback Chad May was a straight line. No one got in their way. Since then, the Wildcats have lost their only two proven linemen—as well as May.

Defensive strengths: One of the nation's top secondaries returns intact. And the line, led by All-America tackle Tim Colston, lost just one starter. Ends Nyle Wiren and Dirk Ochs are a superb pair.

Defensive weaknesses: The only returning linebacker is Percell Gaskins, a former NCAA high-jump champ. He is so fast he makes a habit of running right into big plays. Or past them.

Special teams: Punter Chad Romano showed flashes two years ago. Last year, he was so disappointing that Snyder used three punters, unable to decide who would do the least damage. Now, it's Romano's job again.

Keys to success: Someone must step up at quarterback—Matt Miller? Cody Lee Smith?—and the offensive line must have learned some lessons.

Outlook: The Wildcats have all the defense

anyone could want and a non-league schedule any junior college would love. They should get another bowl bid. But Miller has been unimpressive in the few chances he has had, and Smith, a junior-college All-America, missed all of spring practice with a stomach virus that left him unable to digest his food. He lost a lot of weight in the worst way and is questionable for the season.

Coach Bill Snyder says: "Under the circumstances, it would be difficult to go in the same direction we have been going. We have very key spots in the program that we need to adequately replace. We may not be as good as we were, but I don't envision, as a program, falling."

WILDCATS DATA

Coach: Bill Snyder (38-31-1, 6 years)

1994 record: 9-3 (lost to Boston College in Aloha Bowl) Big Eight: 5-2-3rd

Key losses: Barrett Brooks, OT; Ron Brown, WR; Darrell Harbert, DT; Eric Hardy, P; Jim Hmielewski, OT; Kirby Hocutt, LB; Chad May, QB; J.J. Smith, RB; Laird Veatch, LB.

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Ross Greenwood, G, 6-3/300, Jr.; Jason Johnson, C, 6-3/270, Jr.; Kevin Lockett, WR, 6-0/175, Jr.; Brian Lofka, TE, 6-7/260, Sr.; Chris Ottmanns, T, 6-8/300, Jr.; Mitch Running, WR, 6-0/185, Sr.; Tyson Schwieger, WR, 5-10/180, Sr. **Defense (8):** Chris Canty, CB, 5-10/180, Soph.; Tim Colston, T, 6-1/275, Sr.; Percell Gaskins, LB, 6-1/215, Sr.; Joe Gordon, CB, 5-9/175, Jr.; Chuck Marlowe, SS, 6-1/185, Sr.; Dirk Ochs, E, 6-4/250, Sr.; Mario Smith, FS, 6-0/185, Jr.; Nyle Wiren, E, 6-1/245, Jr.

Kicker (1): Martin Gramatica, K, 5-9/160, Soph. **Other key returnees:** Jimmy Dean, WR, Jr.; Ray Eagle, DT, Sr.; DeShawn Fogle, LB, Jr.; Scott Haun, OT, Sr.; Eric Hickson, RB, Soph.; Kendyl Jacob, G, Soph.; Mike Lawrence, RB, Soph.; Matt Miller, QB, Sr.; Chad Romano, P, Jr.; Andrew Timmons, DT, Jr. (RS)

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Lawrence (12 att., 79 yds., 0 TD); Passing: Miller (12 att., 4 comp., 0 INT, 0 TD, 37 yds.); Receiving: Schwieger (44 rec., 564 yds., 7 TD); Tackler: Marlowe (96); Sackler: Colston (8).
Top newcomers: David Damon, LB, Fr (RS); Travis Ochs,

LB Fr (RS): Alex Sanchez, DT, Fr: Cody Lee Smith, QB, Jr (JC) Ryan Young, OT Fr (RS)
 Site: Manhattan, Kan. Stadium: KSU Stadium (42,000)
 Last league title won: 1934

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Temple	Oct. 21 —at Nebraska
Sept. 9 —at Cincinnati	Oct. 28 —Kansas
Sept. 23 —Akron	Nov. 4 —Oklahoma
Sept. 30 —Northern Illinois	Nov. 11 —at Iowa State
Oct. 7 —Missouri	Nov. 18 —Colorado
Oct. 14 —at Oklahoma State	

4. OKLAHOMA

Offensive strengths: At least one thing is like the good old days at Oklahoma: With Jerald Moore, James Allen and Jeff Frazier, the Sooners are loaded at running back. Big things are expected of sophomore tight end Stephen Alexander.

Offensive weaknesses: At the start of last season, quarterback Garrick McGee was considered a savior. By the middle of the season, OU was looking for a replacement. The only possible alternatives are freshmen. Redshirt Eric Moore is rumored to have a strong arm, but who knows? No one has seen him before. There also are two highly touted true freshmen quarterbacks—Justin Fuente and Chris Redman.

Defensive strengths: The guys who kept Oklahoma from having its first losing season since the Johnson Administration last season—the linebackers—all return. Cornerback Darrius Johnson is excellent.

Defensive weaknesses: The line is better than the offensive version, but not by much. Star end Cedric Jones returns, but little else.

Special teams: OU was the second-worst team in Division I-A in kickoff returns last

season (16.0-yard average), a ranking Johnson should help improve significantly. Tim Daughtry will handle the punting, but a replacement must be found for kicker Scott Blanton.

Keys to success: The Sooners must find a quarterback and an offensive line.

Outlook: For the past few years, the conventional wisdom has been that Oklahoma had talent on the field but not on the sideline. Think again. This team is a far cry from past Sooners teams. Last year's offen-



Tyrell Peters and his linebacking buddies saved the day for Oklahoma last season.

sive line was highly touted but ended up being one of the league's worst, and the quarterbacks were a huge disappointment. There's no reason to think either of those spots are much better now. OU was so big and slow when Howard Schnellenberger took over that the first thing he did was order the players to lose 1,000 pounds. By the end of spring, they had lost about 800, so they should be quicker.

Coach Howard Schnellenberger says: "I have always believed that talent and experience that is accustomed to winning can accomplish more than talent and experience that is accustomed to losing. At this point, I'm not sure which we have."

RECORDING DATA

Coach: Howard Schnellenberger (1st year; 85-71-2 overall, 15 years)

1994 record: 6-6 (lost to Brigham Young in Copper Bowl)

Big Eight: 4-3/4th

Key losses: Scott Blanton, K, David Campbell, DE Ben Caryl, G, Albert Hall, SE

Starters returning: **Offense (9):** Stephen Alexander, TE, 6-5/224, Soph., James Allen, TB, 6-1/214, Jr., J.R. Conrad, T, 6-5/309, Sr., Chuck Langston, C, 6-1/266, Sr., Bruce McClure, G, 6-5/265, Soph., Garrick McGee, QB, 6-4/197, Sr., P.J. Mills, FL, 5-11/168, Sr., Jerald Moore, FB, 5-10/226, Jr., Harry Stamps, T, 6-5/304, Sr. **Defense (10):** Larry Bush, CB, 5-10/185, Sr., Brent DeQuase, LB, 6-3/237, Sr., Anthony Fogle, FS, 6-1/193, Jr., Mano Freeman, LB, 5-10/223, Sr., Rod Henderson, SS, 6-2/196, Jr., Darrius Johnson, CB/KR, 5-9/180, Sr., Cedric Jones, E, 6-4/267, Sr., Fred Lewis, T, 6-2/268, Sr., Tyrell Peters, LB, 6-1/218, Jr., Broderick Simpson, LB, 6-0/209, Jr. **Kicker (1):** Tim Daughtry, P, 6-3/218, Soph.

Other key returnees: Jeremy Alexander, K, Soph., Joe Carollo, G, Sr. (RS), Jeff Frazier, RB, Jr., Paul Oatis, DE, Jr. (RS), Milton Overton, G, Sr., Juan Penny, SE, Sr. **Returning statistical leaders:** Rushing, Moore (129 att. 659

Continued

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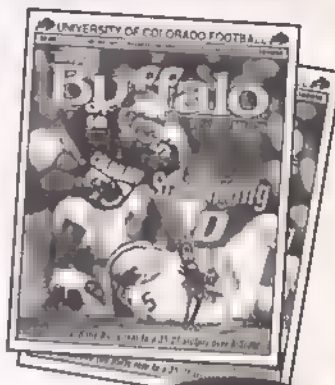
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Ashaundai Smith is Kansas' go-to receiver, but he's only 5-6 and caught just 22 passes in '94.

yds., 10 TD). Passing: McGee (284 att., 149 comp., 13 INT, 6 TD, 1,909 yds.); Receiving: Mills (29 rec., 432 yds., 2 TD); Tackler: Peters (94); Sacker: Jones (14).
Top newcomers: Bernie Butler, RB, Fr.; Justin Fuente, QB, Fr.; Marquis Gibson, LB, Fr.; Kelly Gregg, DL, Fr.; Eric Moore, QB, Fr. (RS); Chris Radman, QB, Fr.
Site: Norman, Okla. **Stadium:** Memorial Stadium (75,004)
Last league title won: 1987

SCHEDULE

Sept. 9 —San Diego State	Oct. 21 —Kansas
Sept. 16 —Southern Methodist	Oct. 28 —at Missouri
Sept. 23 —North Texas	Nov. 4 —at Kansas State
Sept. 30 —Colorado	Nov. 11 —Oklahoma St.
Oct. 7 —at Iowa State	Nov. 24 —at Nebraska
Oct. 14 —Texas (at Dallas)	

5. KANSAS

Offensive strengths: The Jayhawks not only have four top running backs, but a plan on how to use them.

Offensive weaknesses: There were just four receivers in spring practice. The go-to receiver, Ashaundai Smith, is just 5-foot-6 and caught only 22 passes last year. He also had a crucial fumble in a three-point loss to Oklahoma. And who will throw the ball to them? Probably inexperienced senior Mark Williams.

Defensive strengths: The linebackers are small but good. Ronnie Ward made 98 tackles last year even though he missed the final three games with a shoulder injury.

Defensive weaknesses: Everything but linebackers. Kansas couldn't defend the pass last year, and that was a team effort. The line never got within a mile of any quarterback, which forced the backs to cover and cover and cover. And they weren't able to.

Special teams: Smith is a big-time return threat. Darrin Simmons doesn't punt far, but does put the ball out of bounds inside the 20. Kicker Jeff McCord was shaky in the first half of last season but one of the league's best in the second half.

Keys to success: Kansas must kill a lot of time with its running game to keep its shaky defense off the field.

Outlook: The Jayhawks aren't a joke any more, but they have gone from embarrassing to mediocre to the national rankings and back to mediocre again. Glen Mason didn't

use his running backs enough last year, and plans are to change that. He had no pass rush last year, either, so the Jayhawks will switch formations with the help of new defensive coordinator Mike Hankwitz. New coaches, new formations. But new results? **Coach Glen Mason says:** "You've heard the old saying, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it.' If it is broke, try anything. I thought I needed to try anything."

JAYHAWK DATA

Coach: Glen Mason (33-45-1, 7 years; 45-55-1 overall, 9 years)
1994 record: 6-5. Big Eight: 3-4-5th

Key losses: Darnell Britt, DT, Don Davis, LB; Harold Hams, DE; Steve Harvey, LB; Hessler Hampstead, G; John Jones, G; Kwame Lassiter, CB; Gerald McBurrows, SS; Chris Powell, FB; Ashelo Preston, QB; George White, RB; Sylvester Wright, DT.

Starters returning: Offense (7): June Henley, RB, 5-11/205, Jr.; Rod Jones, T, 6-4/300, Sr.; LT Levine, RB, 5-10/210, Sr.; Jim Moore, TE, 6-3/245, Jr.; Ashaundai Smith, WR/KR, 5-6/160, Sr.; Jared Smith, C, 6-1/260, Jr.; Scott Whittaker, T, 6-6/290, Jr. **Defense (5):** Tony Blevins, CB, 6-0/170, Jr.; Donan Brew, CB, 5-10/175, Sr.; Maurice Gaddie, SS, 5-9/185, Soph.; Keith Rodgers, LB, 5-11/205, Sr.; Ronnie Ward, LB, 6-0/225, Sr. **Kickers (2):** Jeff McCord, K, 5-9/215, Soph.; Darrin Simmons, P, 6-1/205, Sr.

Other key returnees: Chris Banks, G, Sr.; Hosea Friday, TE, Jr.; Dewey Houston, DT, Soph.; Brett McGraw, DT, Soph.; Mark Sanders, RB, Jr.; Mark Williams, CB, Sr.; Tim Willis, LB, Soph. (RSacademics)

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Levine (128 att., 803 yds., 11 TD); Passing: Williams (30 att., 21 comp., 0 INT, 2 TD, 336 yds.); Receiving: Smith (22 rec., 426 yds., 3 TD); Tackler: Ward (98); Sacker: McGraw (3.5)

Top newcomers: Cleve Roberts, DT, Fr. (RS); Ben Rutz, CB, Jr. (JC); Bonne Willis, TE, Fr.
Site: Lawrence, Kan. **Stadium:** Memorial Stadium (50,250)
Last league title won: 1968

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Cincinnati	Oct. 14 —Iowa State
Sept. 9 —North Texas	Oct. 21 —at Oklahoma
(at Irving, Texas)	Oct. 28 —at Kansas State
Sept. 14 —Texas Christian	Nov. 4 —Missouri
Sept. 23 —Houston	Nov. 11 —Nebraska
Oct. 7 —at Colorado	Nov. 18 —at Oklahoma St.

6. MISSOURI

Offensive strengths: Believe it or not, running backs. In five years under former coach Bob Stull, the Tigers were outrun by five miles. Literally. Now, they have the league's Offensive Freshman of the Year, Brock Olivo; Kenyetta Williams, a transfer from



Brock Olivo has helped make Missouri's running game a formidable obstacle.

Indiana; and sophomore Ernest Blackwell. **Offensive weaknesses:** The Tigers have running backs, but no one to block for them. **Defensive strengths:** Inside linebacker Darryl Chatman is the team's hardest hitter and one of the league's best-kept secrets. And tackle Henry Thomas was among the nation's top five junior-college recruits at any position.

Defensive weaknesses: In the secondary, the players with experience are slow and the ones with speed have no experience.

Special teams: The best player on special teams is the long snapper, Steve Haag. That tells you something. With no punters or kickers on scholarship, the Missouri kicking game could be a disaster.

Keys to success: The Tigers must establish a running game, develop a quarterback and find consistency on defense.

Outlook: Missouri might be slightly better but its record significantly better in 1995. With the softest schedule this side of Kansas State, the Tigers have an opportunity to win six games, enough for bowl consideration. They haven't been to a bowl for so long (1983) that fans would be sure to travel with the team, and Smith used to be the coach at Arizona. That combination has not been lost on the Copper Bowl, which is played in Tucson. The Tigers could have been .500 last year had it not been for three game-ending plays that went against them. Was that bad luck or bad talent? Or both?

Coach Larry Smith says: "I can't blame talent. I can't blame coaching. It came down to, on all of those, we just have to make the play. You either make it or you don't."

TIGERS DATA

Coach: Larry Smith (3-8-1, 1 year; 113-98-7 overall, 16 years)
1994 record: 3-8-1. Big Eight: 2-5/6th

Key losses: Joe Freeman, TB; Jeff Handy, QB; Darryl Major, LB; Travis McDonald, LB; Kevin McIntosh, CB; Matt Murray, NT; Trey O'Neil, OT; Rafe Parsons, G; Marc Pedrotti, DE; Kyle Pooler, K/P; Brian Salee, WR; Damon Simon, DT; Chris Singletary, LB; Michael Washington, FB; Andre White, SS.

Starters returning: Offense (6): Russ Appel, C, 6-3/246, Jr.; Chris Buck, T, 6-5/305, Sr.; Rahselmu Jenkins, WR, 6-2/170, Jr.; Brummett, TE, 6-4/240, Jr.; Mike Morris, G, 6-3/290, Soph.; Brock Olivo, TB, 6-1/185, Soph. **Defense (5):** Clayton Baker, CB, 5-10/174, Jr.; Darryl Chatman, LB, 6-1/226, Jr.; DeMonte Cross, FS, 6-4/202, Jr.; Steve Martin, T, 6-5/284, Sr.; Jon Sandt, NT, 6-4/267, Sr. **Kicker (1):** Mark Morris, K, 6-2/190, Jr.

Other key returnees: Ernest Blackwell, FB, Soph.; Kay Blake, LB, Sr.; Brandon Corso, CB, Jr.; Shad Criss, CB, Soph.; Lou Shepherd, WR, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Olivo (142 att., 614 yds., 5 TD); Passing: Corso (57 att., 31 comp., 2 INT, 1 TD, 391 yds.); Receiving: Jenkins (40 rec., 482 yds., 2 TD); Tackler: Cross (138); Sacker: Martin (8)

Top newcomers: Terrence Brannon, SS, Soph. (transfer/Pitt); Ed Flanagan, OT, Jr. (JC); Harold Jones, WR, Jr. (JC); Henry Thomas, DT, Jr. (JC); Kenyetta Williams, TB, Jr. (transfer/Indiana)

Site: Columbia, Mo. **Stadium:** Memorial Stadium (62,000)
Last league title won: 1969

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —North Texas	Oct. 21 —Oklahoma St.
Sept. 9 —Bowling Green	Oct. 28 —Oklahoma
Sept. 16 —at Texas Tech	Nov. 4 —at Kansas
Sept. 23 —Northeast Louisiana	Nov. 11 —at Colorado
Oct. 7 —at Kansas State	Nov. 18 —Iowa State
Oct. 14 —at Nebraska	

7. OKLAHOMA STATE

Offensive strengths: Although Barry Sanders and Thurman Thomas are long gone, Oklahoma State still calls itself Tailback U. Andre Richardson and David



Talented Oklahoma State defensive end Jevon Langford has yet to fulfill expectations.

Thompson form one of the more formidable rushing tandems in the league. **Offensive weaknesses:** Quarterback Tone' Jones is a first-rate runner but the league's worst passer. Even if he could pass, OSU's receivers are too slow.

Defensive strengths: Even in their recent lean years, the Cowboys have maintained a respectable defense, especially on the line. End Jevon Langford, a disappointment thus far, has as much talent as anyone.

Defensive weaknesses: If opponents get past the line—and they will—there won't be anyone to stop them. The secondary looks very shaky.

Special teams: Greg Ivy, who will see plenty of action in '95, was the nation's ninth-best punter last year. Kicker Lawson Vaughn, who won't play much, was great as a sophomore in 1993 but average last year.

Keys to success: The defensive front, and particularly Langford, must live up to its billing. At least one linebacker must step up as a leader. And Jones must become somewhat of a passing threat.

Outlook: The Cowboys, who never recovered from probation of the late '80s, basically are starting over. Former coach Pat Jones' plan to rebuild with junior-college players didn't work, and he left new Coach Bob Simmons with little offensive talent. In two spring games, OSU's first-team offense managed just one touchdown against the second-team defense. To make things worse, four of the Cowboys' five non-league games are on the road. And the Big Eight teams the Cowboys can beat, the lower-level ones, are on the road, too.

Coach Bob Simmons says: "We've still got a long way to go. Let me say this, though, I'm not panicking at all. I know what we're doing is right. We've just got to get it down pat."

COACHES DATA

Coach: Bob Simmons (1st year)
1994 record: 3-7-1 Big Eight: 0-6-1/77th.
Key losses: Russell Bernen, SE; Rafael Denson, FL; James Elliott, LB; Linc Harden, LB; Eric Hobbs, LB; Joe Jefferson, FB; Derek Jones, TE; Alan Orts, G; Tyler Williams, DT
Starters returning: **Offense** (6): Bryan Hops, C, 6-4/270. Sr., Tone Jones, QB, 5-11/190, Jr., Derek Linnen, T, 6-4/292 Jr., Calvin Menephee, T, 6-2/294, Soph. David Thompson, TB, 5-8/200, Jr., Scott Waterbury, G, 6-5/298, Sr. **Defense** (8): Louis Adams, FS, 6-1/217 Jr., Adam Bailey, LB, 6-2/255. Sr. Trent Fisher, SS, 5-10/190, Jr. Lorenzo Green, T, 6-2/270, Sr.; Jerrod Johnson, CB, 5-9/180. Sr.; Johnny Jones, CB, 5-9/165, Sr.; Jevon Langford, E, 6-5/260, Jr.; Norman Williams, E, 5-10/240, Sr. **Kickers** (2): Greg Ivy, P, 6-0/190, Sr., Lawson Vaughn, K, 6-0/180, Sr.
Other key returnees: Jarrod Barton, LB, Soph.; Jay Grosfield, DT Jr.; Bryan Guillory, OL, Soph. Aionzo Mayes, TE, Soph.; Tim McNeal, WR, Soph.; Andre Richardson, TB, Soph.
Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Thompson (188 att. 819 yds., 5 TD); Passing: Jones (256 att., 114 comp., 14 INT, 8 TD, 1,468 yds.); Receiving: McNeal (4 rec., 39 yds., 0 TD); Tackler: Adams (69); Sackler: Langford (8.5)
Top newcomers: Kevin Kempo, DL, Fr., Nathan Simmons, TB, Fr., Cameron White, WR, Fr.
Site: Stillwater, Okla. **Stadium:** Lewis Field (50,814)
Last league title won: 1976.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Wyoming	Oct. 21 —at Missouri
Sept. 9 —at Tulsa	Oct. 28 —at Iowa State
Sept. 16 —SW Missouri State	Nov. 4 —Colorado
Sept. 30 —at Tennessee	Nov. 11 —at Oklahoma
Oct. 7 —Nebraska	Nov. 18 —Kansas
Oct. 14 —Kansas State	Dec. 2 —at Hawaii

8. IOWA STATE

Offensive strengths: On this team? Offensive strengths? Well, running backs, maybe. Fans who were angry with former coach Jim Walden for rarely playing highly touted freshman tailback Troy Davis last season will get more of a chance to see him.

Offensive weaknesses: The option is out and the passing game is in, but there are two problems: no one can pass and no one can pass-block. Todd Doxzon is an option quarterback who doesn't have much of an arm, and with the Cyclones switching to the pro-set, he'll be hit plenty. The line is a mess.

Defensive strengths: Defensive strengths? The Cyclones have no strong area, but one strong player: linebacker Tim Sanders, who had 14 tackles against Nebraska last year.

Defensive weaknesses: You've never heard of any of the linemen, and you won't have by the end of the season, either. Iowa State had just eight sacks in 1994, and the players responsible for six of them are gone.

Special teams: This is the lone bright spot on a dismal team. Punter Marc Harris ranked No. 17 in the nation last year with a 42.5-yard average, and it's a good thing. He'll be used often. Sophomore return man Geoff Turner is a threat.

Keys to success: Prayer. Lots of it. Doxzon's experience must make him a better passer than expected, and Davis, a Miami native, must show why he was so highly rated in the first place. Eight or nine linemen must arrive on campus.

Outlook: New Coach Dan McCarney knows all about rebuilding programs. He became an assistant at Iowa after the Hawkeyes had 15 non-winning seasons in a row and at Wisconsin after the Badgers had won nine games in four years. Those jobs, however, were easy compared to this one.

Coach Dan McCarney says: "We're starting

BURNING QUESTION

Why did Colorado pick Rick Neuheisel?

He was young and inexperienced. Strike one.

He was not the choice of the popular, outgoing coach.

Strike two

His hiring was apt to create racial tension on a campus that could be called "Politically Correct U."

Strike three.

But three strikes, and Rick Neuheisel was in. As coach at Colorado.

Colorado, which could have attracted a big-name coach to replace Bill McCartney, instead chose someone who had left his alma mater, UCLA, in a huff a year earlier when that school wouldn't make him offensive coordinator.

"The whole object," Colorado Athletic Director Bill Marolt said, "was to hire whoever would do the best job. That's what we did. . . . There isn't any question Rick is young. But there isn't any question he's got a great football mind."

As CU's quarterbacks coach last year, Neuheisel oversaw the development of Kordell Stewart. As Stewart's development became more pronounced as the season progressed, attention turned to Neuheisel. Michigan State talked to him about its coaching job after George Perles was fired.

Then, when McCartney retired unexpectedly November 19, Colorado was forced to make a decision: promote the "whiz kid" too soon or lose him. The start of "recruiting season" was only a few days away, and Colorado wanted to keep the players who had committed.

Marolt announced that he would hire from within for the sake of continuity. McCartney recommended defensive line coach Bob Simmons or offensive coordinator Elliot Uzelac. But some players complained that Simmons played favorites, and others said they would quit if Uzelac were hired. Neuheisel was their overwhelming choice.

"He won't run you down," quarterback Koy Detmeier said. "He's all for the guys on the field and he doesn't play favorites."

But not everyone celebrated the hiring. Jesse Jackson denounced it, saying Simmons wasn't chosen because he was black; Jackson threatened to have prep players boycott Colorado in protest.

"Jesse Jackson?" one recruit asked. "Who's he?"

Several recruits didn't know, and Neuheisel landed one of the nation's top recruiting classes.

"I'm all for the Rainbow Coalition's objectives," Neuheisel said. "But I didn't think that meant I need not apply. Of all the candidates, they felt I was best."

"I'm not giving the job back."

—GREG COUCH

Continued

from scratch. Remember, some of the guys on this team have never experienced a win."

CYCLONES DATA

Coach: Dan McCarney (1st year)

1994 record: 0-10-1 Big Eight: 0-6-1/7th

Key losses: Marcus Allen, LB; Tony Booth, C; Dan Dostal, TE; Jim Knoff, FB; Marc Linnabridge, LB; Cedric Linwood, FS; Matt Nichol, LB; Troy Petersen, NG; Doug Ragaller, G; Anthony Scott, DT; Ty Stewart, K; Jim Thompson, G; Brian Wilkinson, OT

Starters returning: Offense (5): Calvin Branch, TB, 5-11/189 Sr.; Todd Doxzon, QB, 6-0/170, Jr.; Rodney Guggenheim, FB, 5-9/200, Jr.; Mike Horacek, SE, 6-1/192 Sr.; Tim Kohn, T, 6-5/298, Jr. Defense (5): Jason Brown, CB, 5-10/187 Soph.; Daryl Hall, CB, 5-8/179, Jr.; Russell Johnson, CB, 5-10/185, Jr.; Tim Sanders, LB, 6-0/209, Jr.; Matt Straight, SS, 5-11/192 Sr. Kicker (1): Marc Harris, P, 5-11/198 Jr.

Other key returners: Michael Cooper, LB, Soph.; Troy Davis, TB, Soph.; Robby Duncan, QB, Soph.; Kevin Fleece, NG Sr.; Artis Garis, RB Sr.; Mark Konopka, G Sr.; Angelo Provenza, LB, Sr.; Jason Putz, DT, Sr.; Jeff St. Clair, QB, Jr.; B.J. Spyksma, DE Sr.; Geoff Turner, WR/RB/KR, Soph. Ed Williams, SE Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Doxzon (148 att., 375 yds. 4 TD); Passing: Doxzon (90 att., 51 comp., 3 INT 3 TD, 745 yds.); Receiving: Horacek (22 rec., 368 yds., 2 TD); Tackler: Sanders (126); Sackler: Straight (1)

Top newcomers: Mike Brantley, SE, Fr.; James Henderson, DB, Jr. (JC); Corey Lambert, QB, Fr. (RS)

Site: Ames, Iowa. **Stadium:** Trice Field (43,000)

Last league title won: 1912

SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 —Ohio University	Oct. 21 —Colorado
Sept. 9 —at Texas Christian	Oct. 28 —Oklahoma St.
Sept. 16 —Iowa	Nov. 4 —at Nebraska
Sept. 23 —UNLV	Nov. 11 —Kansas State
Oct. 7 —Oklahoma	Nov. 18 —at Missouri
Oct. 14 —at Kansas	

Greg Couch covers college sports for the Wichita (Kan.) Eagle



The Cyclones have no defensive strengths, but they have one strong player: linebacker Tim Sanders.

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SCOUTING THE BIG EIGHT

BIG EIGHT

Ascending: Kansas State. They haven't beaten one of the league's Big Two (Nebraska or Colorado) yet, but the Wildcats have gone to a bowl and finished in the Top 25 in each of the past two seasons. K-State has surpassed Oklahoma as the Big Eight's third-best team.

Descending: Kansas. Coach Glen Mason took one of the nation's worst programs of the 1980s and built it into something respectable, but the Jayhawks seemed to have peaked. Kansas is no threat to return to the bad old days, but another mediocre season, coupled with another good year for rival Kansas State, will have Mason feeling the pressure.

Nightmare schedule: Colorado, as usual. The Buffs go to Wisconsin and host Colorado State and Texas A&M. Next year, they've got Michigan, Colorado State and Miami. It takes a coach with a lifetime contract to make schedules like these. One problem: The coach with that contract was Bill McCartney. The coach who has to play those games is Rick Neuheisel.

Dream schedule: Kansas State, as always. Coach Bill Snyder said last season that as his program improved, he would toughen-up the schedule. The only thing that went up were ticket prices. Snyder gave Temple \$300,000 to move this year's game to Manhattan. The Wildcats also host Akron and Northern Illinois and go to Cincinnati.

Best matchup of the year: Nebraska at Colorado, October 28. Since 1989, this has become the unofficial Big Eight championship game, as the winner has won or shared the past six league titles. Will the Buffaloes' defensive front be able to stand up to the Cornhuskers' offensive front this time?

Worst matchup of the year: Temple at Kansas State. No, Northern Illinois at Kansas State. No, Akron at Kansas State.

Shocker of the Year: Bowling Green over Missouri, September 9. Missouri Coach Larry Smith will justify the loss by saying that Bowling Green is the best team in its league, then won't be able to name the league. (Bowling Green, by the way, is the alma mater of Smith and both of his coordinators.)

Bowl bound: Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas State and Oklahoma. If Missouri can manage six victories off a light schedule, its bowl-starved fans might have too many dollars for a minor bowl to pass up.

Biggest shoes to fill: Colorado quarterback Kordell Stewart's. Yes, they're even bigger than those of Heisman Trophy winner Rashaan Salaam. Although Stewart's replacement, Koy Detmer, is a more accurate passer, the Buffs will find how hard it is to lose a quarterback who can outrun anyone on the field while running the option.

Most underrated player: Oklahoma State running back Andre Richardson. He averaged 6.4 yards a carry last season—but did

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive backfield:	Nebraska
Best wide receivers:	Kansas State
Best offensive line:	Colorado
Best defensive line:	Nebraska
Best linebackers:	Colorado
Best secondary:	Kansas State
Best special teams:	Kansas
Hardest hitter:	Chaston Peter, DT, Nebraska
Best backup quarterback:	Brook Bennett, Nebraska
Best pro prospect:	Tim Colston, DT, Kansas State
Best stadium:	Folsom Field, Colorado
Best rivalry:	Nebraska-Colorado

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. Nebraska (Best recruit: RB Ahman Green). Here we go again: The Huskers landed plenty of big offensive linemen, speedy defensive players and a running back—Green—who will be an All-American.
2. Colorado (QB Jeremy Wersinger)
3. Oklahoma (QB Chris Redman)
4. Kansas State (DE Darren Howard)
5. Missouri (QB John McArthur)
6. Kansas (TE Bonne Willis)
7. Oklahoma State (QB R.W. McQuarters)
8. Iowa State (RB Damien Brown)



Colorado's Koy Detmer is a better passer than Kordell Stewart, but he isn't nearly as fast.

not even make second-team all-league.

Most overrated player: Oklahoma quarterback Garrick McGee. League coaches selected him as Big Eight Offensive Newcomer of the Year last season, but McGee wouldn't have gotten the vote of Oklahoma's new coaching staff, which is trying to find a new starting quarterback.

Best head coach: Tom Osborne, Nebraska. The longtime coach won his first national title last season.

Best coaching staff: Nebraska. Of the full-time assistants, all but two have been on Osborne's staff for the past nine years.

Coach on the hot seat: Rick Neuheisel, Colorado. He hasn't coached a game yet, but it will take at least eight victories to keep CU fans from grumbling. Neuheisel is following a legend and has the league's toughest schedule.

Best bets: Colorado will contribute more TV revenues to the Big Eight kitty than Kansas State. . . . Kansas State will complain about which bowl game it goes to. . . . Colorado will throw more passes than Nebraska. . . . If the Big Eight champ goes to the Fiesta Bowl to play for the national title, it won't miss Miami or the Orange Bowl.

Odds and ends: The Big Eight has four new coaches for just the second time since 1935. Neuheisel replaces Bill McCartney at Colorado; Dan McCartney takes over for Jim Walden at Iowa State; Howard Schnellenberger replaces Gary Gibbs at Oklahoma; and Bob Simmons replaces Pat Jones at Oklahoma State. . . . By going 9-3 last year, Kansas State completed back-to-back nine-victory seasons for the first time. . . . Missouri offensive tackle Ed Flanagan used to be a bodyguard for Sharon Stone. . . . More Hollywood: Kansas State quarterback Cody Lee Smith's mom is an Academy Award-winning makeup artist. Smith took a semester off school to be with his mom in Poland during the filming of *Schindler's List*. . . . Nebraska's Peter brothers, Christian and Jason, will start together at tackle on the defensive line. They have never lined up together, not even in high school. . . . Kansas State defensive tackle Tim Colston felt a little *deja vu* as he watched the movie *Forrest Gump* on the Wildcats' flight to Hawaii for the Aloha Bowl. Colston could relate when he saw young Forrest run away from his tormentors, then break free of leg braces. Colston, who is pigeon-toed, wore braces on his legs because doctors feared he wouldn't be able to move normally. He stopped wearing them only because his family couldn't afford to keep replacing them as he got bigger. He still has hard feelings about the teasing he took. . . . Football is a sissy sport to Kansas defensive tackle Brett McGraw, who as a rodeo performer has sustained four concussions, had ankle surgery and was poked in the face by a horn.

—GREG COUCH

1. FLORIDA STATE

Offensive strengths: The Seminoles boast the ACC's total-offense champion in quarterback Danny Kanell and the lone returning 1,000-yard rusher in Warrick Dunn; Dunn's backup is the talented Rock Preston. Center Clay Shiver and guard Lewis Tyre were All-ACC as juniors. No conference team was within 75 yards per game of Florida State in total offense.

Offensive weaknesses: The departure of two-time All-ACC choice Kez McCorvey leaves the Seminoles without a receiver who ranked among the top 10 in the conference. Also gone is the team's leading scorer—this would make a good trivia question—fullback Zack Crockett.

Defensive strengths: Middle linebacker Daryl Bush led the team in tackles as a red-shirt freshman and gets outstanding support on the outside from Sam Cowart and Todd Rebol, who combines cerebral and emotional elements almost as well as the departed Derrick Brooks.

Defensive weaknesses: Florida State could well be called Cornerback U., but the departure of Clifton Abraham and Corey Fuller leaves the secondary in relatively inexperienced hands.

Special teams: Scott Bentley, recruited as the answer to the Seminoles' chronic kicking problems, regains the job he yielded to Dan Mowrey at the end of the 1994 campaign. Considering his ability to deliver the finesse kick, punter Sean Liss deserves more recognition than the placement specialists.

Key to success: Dunn became only the fifth player in Florida State history to rush for 1,000 yards, but the Seminoles struggled against Miami and Florida when they were unable to move the ball on the ground.

Outlook: The Seminoles trade Notre Dame for Central Florida; that could enable them to be 10-0 when they visit Florida on November 25.

Coach Bobby Bowden says: "I've told the players they've got to live up to a lot. A team that's won as many bowl games as we have in a row (10), a team that's won 10 games as many times in a row (eight) as we have, a team that's not lost an ACC game (since entering the league in 1992)—that's a lot of responsibility on our shoulders."

COACHING DATA

Coach: Bobby Bowden (176-47-4, 19 years, 249-79-4 overall, 29 years)

1994 record: 10-1-1 (beat Florida in Sugar Bowl) ACC: 6-0/1st

Key losses: Clifton Abraham, CB, Demick Alexander DE (declared for NFL draft), Demick Brooks, LB, Devin Bush, SS (declared for NFL draft), Zack Crockett, FB, Omar Ellison, WR, Corey Fuller, CB, Kez McCorvey WR, Patrick McNeil, G, James Robertson, DE

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Warrick Dunn, RB, 5-9/178, Jr.; Todd Forham, T, 6-5/292, Jr.; Jesus Hernandez, T, 6-2/288, Sr.; Danny Kanell, QB, 6-4/215, Sr.; Melvin Pearsall TE, 6-1/242, Soph.; Clay Shiver, C, 6-2/280, Sr.; Lewis Tyre G, 6-5/272, Sr. **Defense (5):** Daryl Bush, LB, 6-2/230, Soph.; Sean Hamlet, FS, 6-0/216, Jr.; Todd Rebol, LB, 6-0/215, Sr.; Orpheus Royce, T, 6-4/275, Sr.; Andre Wadsworth, NG, 6-4/270, Soph. **Kickers (2):** Scott Bentley, K, 5-11/178, Jr.; Sean Liss, P, 6-4/220, Jr.

Other key returnees: Dennis Andrews, FB, Sr., Chad Bates, G, Jr., Byron Capers, CB, Jr.; James Colzie, CB, Jr.; Andre Cooper, FL, Jr.; Sam Cowart, LB, Jr.; E.G. Green, WR, Soph.; Robert Hammond, SS, Soph.; Juan Laureano, OT, Sr.; Tyrant Marion, DE, Sr.; Wayne Messam, SE, Jr.; Rock Preston, TB Soph.; Phillip Riley, WR, Sr.; Connel Spain, DT, Jr.; Pooh Bear Williams, FB, Soph. (RS/knee); Reinard Wilson, DE, Jr. **Returning statistical leaders:** Rushing: Dunn (152 att.,

ACC
Conference Rank: 5
By DOUG DOUGHTY

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. FLORIDA STATE
2. NORTH CAROLINA
3. NORTH CAROLINA STATE
4. VIRGINIA
5. CLEMSON
6. DUKE
7. MARYLAND
8. GEORGIA TECH
9. WAKE FOREST



Florida State's Warrick Dunn is the ACC's lone returning 1,000-yard rusher.

1,026 yds., 8 TD). Passing: Kanell (380 att., 227 comp., 13 INT, 17 TD, 2,761 yds.). Receiving: Dunn (34 rec., 308 yds., 1 TD). Tackler: Bush (86). Sackler: Wilson (11)

Top newcomers: Vernon Crawford, LB, Jr. (JC); Hank Grant, LB, Fr (RS); Lamont Green, LB, Fr (RS); Damian Harrell, WR, Jr. (JC); Deon Humphrey, SS, Fr (RS); Walter Jones, OL, Jr. (JC); Demetri Stephens, LB, Fr (RS)

Site: Tallahassee Fla. **Stadium:** Doak Campbell Stadium (77,500)

Last league title won: 1994

Sept. 2 —Duke (at Orlando)
Sept. 9 —at Clemson
Sept. 16 —North Carolina St.
Sept. 23 —Central Florida
Oct. 7 —Miami (Fla.)
Oct. 14 —Wake Forest

Oct. 21 —Georgia Tech
Nov. 2 —at Virginia
Nov. 11 —at N. Carolina
Nov. 18 —Maryland
Nov. 25 —at Florida

2. NORTH CAROLINA

Offensive strengths: With Curtis Johnson no longer around to share tailback duties, Leon Johnson should return to his 1,000-yard form of 1993. North Carolina never has had a more dangerous pass-catching tandem than Marcus Wall and Octavius Barnes.

Offensive weaknesses: The Tar Heels weren't the best blocking team even before they lost their best lineman, AB-ACC tight end Greg DeLong, and a pair of veteran fullbacks, William Henderson and Malcolm Marshall.

Defensive strengths: North Carolina boasts the premier defensive player in the conference in Marcus Jones, moved from end to tackle this year to discourage teams from running away from him.

Defensive weaknesses: North Carolina's top three tacklers last year were Mike Morton, Eddie Mason and Kerry Mock—all linebackers and all seniors. Help is needed to solidify a run defense that was victimized by Sun Bowl opponent Texas for 229 yards.

Special teams: Wall and Leon Johnson each had returns for scores, but the Tar Heels' kicking specialists are nothing special. Mike Thomas, who averaged 43.1 yards per punt in 1992, hasn't come close to that since.

Key to success: Thomas, after two years as Jason Stanicek's backup at quarterback, threatened to win back the job (he started four times as a freshman) by the end of the '94 season and showed signs of living up to the tremendous hype that accompanied his arrival in Chapel Hill.

Outlook: A season-opening date with Syracuse and a visit to Louisville have added some legitimacy to what traditionally has been a soft non-conference schedule. The Tar Heels don't have much momentum after going 3-3 over the last half of the season.

Coach Mack Brown says: "This year's team will be much younger, but also our expectations are much higher than they've been. We want to go to a bowl and contend for a championship, and, with Florida State in the league, that puts pressure on all of us."

COACHING DATA

Coach: Mack Brown (42-38-1, 7 years, 59-66-1 overall, 11 years)

1994 record: 6-4 (lost to Texas in Sun Bowl) ACC: 5-3/3rd

Key losses: Greg Black, DT (declared for NFL draft); Greg DeLong, TE, William Henderson, FB, Jimmy Hitchcock, CB, Curtis Johnson, RB (declared for NFL draft), Malcolm Marshall, FB, Eddie Mason, LB, Don Meredith, C, Kerry Mock, LB, Mike Morton, LB, Riddick Parker, DT, Trapp Pignetti, K, Ruge Purgason, OT, Jason Stanicek, QB, Oscar Sturges, DE

Starters returning: **Offense (6):** Octavius Barnes, FL, 6-1/189, Soph.; James Gethers, G, 6-3/262, Jr.; Mike Hobgood, G, 6-3/270, Soph.; Leon Johnson, TB, 6-1/208, Jr.; Byron Thomas, T, 6-3/312, Jr.; Marcus Wall, SE, 5-10/165, Sr. **Defense (5):** Sean Boyd, SS, 6-2/200, Sr.; James Hamilton, LB, 6-5/221, Jr.; Marcus Jones, T (moved from E), 6-6/278, Sr.; Fuzzy Lee, CB, 6-1/180, Sr.; Eric Thomas, FS, 5-11/200, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Mike Thomas, P/QB, 6-3/236, Sr. **Other key returnees:** Russell Babb, G, Sr.; Terry Billups, CB, Soph.; Greg Ellis, DE, Soph.; Freddie Jones, TE, Jr.; Kivusama Mays, LB, Soph.; Scott Overbeck, G, Sr. (RS/leg). **Jeff Saturday** C, Soph.; Brian Simmons, LB, Soph.; Rick Terry, DT, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Johnson (151 att. 805 yds., 7 TD); Passing: Thomas (83 att., 39 comp., 3 INT, 8 TD 715 yds.); Receiving: Barnes (32 rec., 609 yds., 3 TD); Tackler: Lee (83); Sackler: Jones (75)

Top newcomers: Andre Barkley, RB, Fr.; Dre Bly, DB, Fr.; Russell Davis, DE, Fr. (RS); Marcus Dow, DT, Fr. (RS); Ebenezer Ekuban, TE, Fr.; Jomo Legins, CB, Fr. (RS); Michael Pringley, DE, Fr. (RS); Robert Williams, DB, Fr.

Site: Chapel Hill, N.C. **Stadium:** Kenan Stadium (52,000)

Last league title won: 1980

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Syracuse	Oct. 21 —Wake Forest
Sept. 9 —at Maryland	Nov. 4 —at Clemson
Sept. 21 —at Louisville	Nov. 11 —Florida State
Sept. 30 —Ohio University	Nov. 18 —Duke
Oct. 7 —Virginia	Nov. 24 —at N. Carolina St.
Oct. 14 —at Georgia Tech	

3. NORTH CAROLINA STATE

Offensive strengths: A late-season push came too late for Wolfpack running back Tremayne Stephens to be named the ACC's top rookie, but he finished third in the conference in rushing with 791 yards in only nine games.

Offensive weaknesses: Coach Mike O'Cain bemoans the loss of his starting tackles and the Wolfpack will miss the clutch receiving of Eddie Goines.

Defensive strengths: North Carolina State's tradition of outstanding secondary play will continue with the combination of free safety James Walker's run support and cornerback Ricky Bell's man-to-man coverage ability.

Defensive weaknesses: North Carolina State lost five of its front seven on defense, including all three linebackers. Particularly difficult to replace will be inside linebacker Damien Covington, with nearly 280 tackles the past two years, and tackle Carl Reeves, second in the ACC last season with 14 tackles for losses.

Special teams: The Wolfpack may have been spoiled by kicker Steve Videtich, who was 16 of 18 on field-goal attempts as a senior. N.C. State's net punting average was 31.1 yards, almost three yards behind the next-lowest ACC figure.

Key to success: Few quarterbacks have directed as many fourth-quarter comebacks as Terry Harvey, who must stay consistent and injury-free now that longtime stablemate Geoff Bender has used up his eligibility.

Outlook: The Wolfpack, whose last three regular-season victories were by a combined six points, could be a better team but not match last year's 9-3 record while playing a schedule that includes non-conference opponents Alabama and Baylor.

Coach Mike O'Cain says: "Our goals are to be a Top 10 football team, to be in that position in the preseason polls. This season is our opportunity to take the next step in that direction."

WOLFPACK DATA

Coach: Mike O'Cain (16-9 2 years).

1994 record: 9-3 (beat Mississippi State in Peach Bowl)

ACC 6-2/2nd

Key losses: Geoff Bender QB, Enc Counts, DT; Damien Covington, LB; Dallas Dickerson, TE; Ed Gallon, LB; Eddie Goines, FL; Chris Henne-Roed, OT; Mike Moore, LB; Carl Reeves, DT; Chad Robson, P; William Strong, CB; Steve Videtich, K; Heath Woods, OT

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Rod Brown, FB 6-0/235, Jr. Mike Guffie, SE 6-3/200, Sr. Terry Harvey, QB 6-1/190, Sr. Steve Kern, G, 6-3/282, Sr. Jonathan Redmond, G, 6-1/295, Sr. Kenneth Redmond, C, 6-2/261, Sr. Tremayne Stephens, TB, 5-11/194, Soph. **Defense (5):** Ricky Bell, CB, 5-10/193, Jr.; Kenny Harris, SS, 6-2/197, Jr.; Mike Hamson, T, 6-5/290, Sr.; Jon Rissler, E, 6-3/238, Sr.; James Walker, FS, 6-3/203, Sr. **Kickers:** None.

Other key returnees: Morocco Brown, LB, Soph.; Jimmy Grissett, WR, Jr.; Carlos King, TB, Soph.; Ron Manik, LB, Jr.; Mark Thomas, TE, Soph.; George Williams, DT, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Stephens (125 att., 791 yds., 3 TD); Passing: Harvey (199 att., 116 comp., 9 INT, 8 TD, 1,466 yds.); Receiving: Grissett (20 rec., 183 yds., 1 TD); Tackler: Walker (84); Sacker: Rissler (3.5).

Top newcomers: Jose Laureano, QB, Fr. (RS); Jason Perry, FS, Fr. (RS); Rodney Redd, CB, Fr. (RS); Hassan Shamsiddin, CB, Fr. (RS).



Virginia's James Farrior ranks among the nation's best outside linebackers.

Site: Raleigh, N.C. Stadium: Carter-Finley Stadium (45,000)
Last league title won: 1979

SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 —Marshall	Oct. 21 —at Duke
Sept. 9 —Virginia	Nov. 4 —Maryland
Sept. 16 —at Florida State	Nov. 11 —at Georgia Tech
Sept. 23 —Baylor	Nov. 18 —at Wake Forest
Sept. 30 —Clemson	Nov. 24 —North Carolina
Oct. 7 —at Alabama	

4. VIRGINIA

Offensive strengths: Mike Groh didn't become the Cavaliers' full-time quarterback until the sixth game of the '94 season, but he led the ACC in passing efficiency and was named offensive MVP of the Independence Bowl. Alternating tailbacks Kevin Brooks and Tiki Barber combined for more than 1,300 yards.

Offensive weaknesses: Virginia didn't have an all-conference lineman in 1994—either first or second team—and lost tackles Chris Harrison and Jason Augustino to injuries in the spring, although both are expected to be ready this fall.

Defensive strengths: The Cavaliers led the nation in interceptions for the second consecutive year, getting a total of 14 from cornerbacks Ronde Barber and Joe Crocker. Outside linebackers Jamie Sharper and James Farrior are among the nation's best.

Defensive weaknesses: The nation's top-ranked defense against the run will have to do without Mike Frederick, who started 47 consecutive games at end, and underrated tackle Ryan Kuehl.

Special teams: Opponents returned only 11 of Will Bruce's 55 punts—for a total of 18 yards. Kicker Rafael Garcia, who had a school-record five field goals against Virginia Tech, needs consistency.

Key to success: The Cavaliers need to find a big-play offensive performer to take the place of wide receiver Tyrone Davis, who finished his career as the all-time No. 2 man in ACC touchdown receptions.

Outlook: Virginia will have difficulty matching last year's nine-victory perfor-

mance. The schedule includes seven 1994 bowl teams, including Michigan in the season-opening Pigskin Classic.

Coach George Welsh says: "It's (the Pigskin Classic) something we had to do. It's not for the money. The money helps, but the idea of national television outweighs everything else. You might get beat, but it's one of those games you don't get too often."

CAVALIERS DATA

Coach: George Welsh (89-59-3, 13 years, 144-105-4 overall, 22 years)

1994 record: 9-3 (beat Texas Christian in Independence Bowl)

ACC 5-3/3rd

Key losses: Tyrone Davis, WR; Mike Frederick, DE; Bryan Heath, C; Ryan Kuehl, DT; Randy Neal, LB; Carl Smith, S; Charles Way, FB

Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Demetrius (Pete) Allen, WR, 5-10/150, Sr.; Jason Augustino, T, 6-6/274, Sr.; Kevin Brooks, TB, 5-11/195, Sr.; Mike Groh, QB, 6-3/199, Sr.; Chris Hamson, T, 6-4/283, Sr.; Bobby Neely, TE, 6-4/245, Sr.; Jeremy Raley, G, 6-3/272, Jr.; John Stocum, G, 6-6/296, Sr. **Defense (7):** Duane Ashman, E, 6-4/250, Jr.; Ronde Barber, CB, 5-10/169, Soph.; Joe Crocker, CB, 6-0/197, Sr.; Percy Ellsworth, S, 6-3/199, Sr.; James Farrior, LB, 6-2/226, Jr.; Jamie Sharper, LB, 6-3/229, Jr.; Todd White, T, 6-1/260, Jr. **Kickers (2):** Will Bruce, P, 6-5/202, Jr.; Rafael Garcia, K, 5-10/194, Jr.

Other key returnees: Tony Agee, DT, Soph.; Tiki Barber, RB, Jr.; Dave Gashman, C, Jr.; Jon Harris, DE, Jr.; Patrick Jeffers, WR, Sr.; Skael Jones, LB, Sr.; Tom Locklin, CG, Jr.; Paul London, S, Sr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Brooks (173 att., 741 yds., 8 TD); Passing: Groh (216 att., 138 comp., 7 INT, 13 TD, 1,711 yds.); Receiving: Jeffers (33 rec., 560 yds., 3 TD); Tackler: Sharper (118); Sacker: Ashman and White (5.5).

Top newcomers: Aaron Brooks, QB, Fr. (RS); Adrian Bumm, DB, Fr. (RS); Robert Hunt, G, Fr. (RS); Anthony Ponder, DB, Fr. (RS); Charles Preston, DE, Fr. (RS); Terrence Wilkins, RB, Fr. (RS).

Site: Charlottesville, Va. Stadium: Scott Stadium (40,000)
Last league title won: 1989 (tie)

SCHEDULE

Aug. 26 —at Michigan (Pigskin Classic)	Oct. 7 —at N. Carolina
Sept. 2 —William & Mary	Oct. 14 —Duke
Sept. 9 —at N. Carolina St.	Oct. 21 —at Texas
Sept. 16 —Georgia Tech	Nov. 2 —Florida State
Sept. 23 —at Clemson	Nov. 11 —at Maryland
Sept. 30 —Wake Forest	Nov. 18 —Virginia Tech

5. CLEMSON

Offensive strengths: After scoring more than 14 points only once in their first seven

Continued



Clemson returns four starters in its secondary, including cornerback Dexter McCleon.

PRESEASON ALL-ATLANTIC COAST TEAM

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE

WARRICK DUNN
RB, Florida State



DEFENSE

MARCUS JONES
T, North Carolina

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE: Charles Wiley, RB, Georgia Tech
DEFENSE: Michael Pringley, DE, North Carolina

COACH OF THE YEAR

Bobby Bowden, Florida State

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	JERMA'NE LEWIS, Maryland	5-8/172	Sr.
WR	MARCUS WALL, North Carolina	5-10/155	Sr.
TE	B.J.L. KHAYAT, Duke	6-4/225	Sr.
T	ELTON DOMA-OGAR, Wake Forest	6-3/289	Sr.
T	JON MERRILL, Duke	6-4/295	Sr.
G	LEWIS TYRE, Florida State	6-5/272	Sr.
G	STEVE KE'N, N.C. State	6-3/282	Sr.
C	CLAY SHIVER, Florida State	6-2/280	Sr.
QB	DANNY KANELL, Florida State	6-4/215	Sr.
RB	WARRICK DUNN, Florida State	5-9/178	Jr.
RR	LEON JOHNSON, North Carolina	6-1/208	Jr.

DEFENSE

E	REINARD WILSON, Florida State	6-2/245	Jr.
T	MARCUS JONES, North Carolina	6-6/278	Sr.
T	ORPHEUS ROYE, Florida State	6-4/275	Sr.
E	MARVIN CROSS, Clemson	6-4/253	Sr.
LB	JAMIE SHARPER, Virginia	6-3/229	Jr.
LB	TODD REBOL, Florida State	6-0/215	Sr.
LB	JOHN ZLANICH, Duke	6-3/205	Sr.
CB	RONDE BARBER, Virginia	5-10/169	Soph.
CB	RICKY BELL, N.C. State	5-10/193	Jr.
S	RAY FARMER, Duke	6-4/220	Sr.
S	JAMES WALKER, N.C. State	6-3/203	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	RAFAEL GARCIA, Virginia	5-10/194	Jr.
P	WILL BRICE, Virginia	6-5/202	Jr.
KR	MARCUS WALL, North Carolina	5-10/165	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	GEROY S. MON, Maryland	6-0/177	Jr.
WR	ANDRE COOPER, Florida State	6-2/194	Jr.
TE	BOBBY NEELY, Virginia	6-4/245	Sr.
T	CHRIS HARRISON, Virginia	6-4/283	Sr.
T	DWAYNE MORGAN, Clemson	6-3/300	Sr.
G	CHAD MELITA, Duke	6-3/290	Soph.
G	WILL YOUNG, Clemson	6-2/280	Sr.
C	MIKE CHEEVER, Georgia Tech	6-4/285	Sr.
QB	SCOTT MILANOVICH, Maryland	6-3/227	Sr.
RB	TREMAINE STEPHENS, N.C. State	5-11/194	Soph.
RB	C.J. WILLIAMS, Georgia Tech	6-1/195	Soph.

DEFENSE

E	GREG ELLIS, North Carolina	6-5/250	Soph.
T	TODD WHITE, Virginia	6-1/260	Jr.
T	MIKE HARRISON, N.C. State	6-5/290	Sr.
E	JAMES K. RYLAND, Duke	6-2/270	Sr.
LB	RATCLIFF THOMAS, Maryland	6-0/231	Jr.
LB	BILLY GRANVILLE, Duke	6-3/240	Jr.
LB	DARYL BUSH, Florida State	6-2/230	Soph.
CB	DEXTER McCLEON, Clemson	5-11/190	Jr.
CB	JOE CROCKER, Virginia	6-0/197	Sr.
S	SEAN HAMLET, Florida State	6-0/216	Jr.
S	BRIAN DAWKINS, Clemson	6-0/190	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	SCOTT BENTLEY, Florida State	5-11/178	Jr.
P	SEAN LISS, Florida State	6-4/220	Jr.
KR	TIKI BARBER, Virginia	5-10/180	Jr.

TIGERS DATA

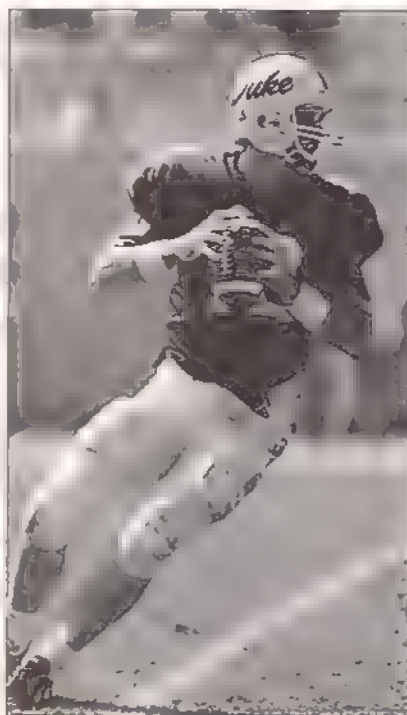
Coach: Tommy West (6-6, 1 year; 10-13 overall, 2 years).
1994 record: 5-6 ACC; 4-4 6th.
Key losses: Mike Barber, LB, Ed Glenn, TE, Tim Jones, LB, Wardell Rouse, LB; Darrell Stephens, LB; Nelson Welch, K/P.
Starters returning: **Offense** (10): Jim Bundren, T, 6-3/275. Soph.: Kenya Crooks, SE, 6-3/190, Soph., Nealon Greene, QB, 5-11/190, Soph.; Marcus Hinton, FL, 6-0/174, Sr.; Dwayne Morgan, T, 6-3/300, Sr., Lamont Pegues, TB, 5-11/195, Soph., Raymond Prestler, FB, 6-1/220, Soph., Trevor Putnam, C, 6-4/265, Sr.; Glenn Rountree, G, 6-3/285, Soph., Will Young, G, 6-2/280, Sr. **Defense** (7): Andre Carter, FS, 5-10/194, Jr., Marvin Cross, E, 6-4/253, Sr., Carlos Curry, MG, 6-2/285, Sr.; Brian Dawkins, SS, 6-0/190, Sr.; Andre Humphrey, CB, 5-8/200, Sr., Dexter McCleon, CB, 5-11/190, Jr., LaMarck Simpson, E, 6-2/270, Sr. **Kickers:** None.
Other key returnees: Anthony Downs, TB, Soph., Peter Ford, CB, Jr., Warren Foremy, DE, Sr.; Lamont Hall, TE, Soph.; Robert Jackson, OT, Sr., Patrick Sapp, LB (moving from CB), Raymond White, NT, Soph., Brett Williams, DE, Jr., Chuck Winslow, LB, Sr., Antwan Wyatt, WR/RB, Jr.
Returning statistical leaders: Rusher Pegues (92 att., 390 yds., 2 TD), Passer: Greene (94 att., 51 comp., 1 INT, 1 TD, 524 yds.), Receiver: Wyatt (30 rec., 282 yds., 1 TD), Tackler: Dawkins (69), Sackler: Curry (2.5).
Top newcomers: Donald Broomfield, LB, Fr (RS); Rashidi Brown, RB, Fr., Derrick Dingle, LB, Fr., Wesley Ellis, TE, Fr. (RS), Billy Lucio, QB, Fr.; Anthony Simmons, LB, Fr.; Joe Woods, WR, Jr. (transfer/Mississippi).
Site: Clemson, S.C. **Stadium:** Clemson Memorial Stadium (81,473).
Last league title won: 1991

RECORD

Sept. 2 —Western Carolina	Oct. 21 —at Maryland
Sept. 8 —Florida State	Oct. 28 —at Georgia Tech
Sept. 16 —at Wake Forest	Nov. 4 —North Carolina
Sept. 23 —Virginia	Nov. 11 —Duke
Sept. 30 —at N. Carolina St.	Nov. 18 —at So. Carolina
Oct. 7 —Georgia	

G. DUKE

Offensive strengths: Spence Fischer, whose career totals will rank him among the elite quarterbacks in ACC history, is bidding for a third consecutive 2,000-yard



Duke's Spence Fischer is bidding for his third consecutive 2,000-yard passing season.

games, the Tigers averaged nearly 20 over the last four games with an all-freshman backfield featuring quarterback Nealon Greene and tailback Lamont Pegues. Onetime tailback Antwan Wyatt could be a dangerous wide receiver.

Offensive weaknesses: The line showed improvement during the season but still hasn't proved it can move better teams off the ball—witness four games of sub-200 yards in total offense.

Defensive strengths: Seven teams passed for 200 or more yards against Clemson last season, but that was because nobody ran on the Tigers. All four starters return in the secondary, headed by hard-hitting safety Brian Dawkins.

Defensive weaknesses: Former starting quarterback Patrick Sapp is being moved to outside linebacker to help offset the loss of four of the Tigers' top five tacklers. Inside linebackers Tim Jones and Mike Barber (a combined 221 tackles) will be sorely missed.

Special teams: The Tigers won't be able to match the versatility of departed Nelson Welch, who not only broke the Clemson scoring record and set an ACC field-goal mark but also punted for the Tigers as a fifth-year senior. Return men Andre Humphrey and Dexter McCleon weren't as dangerous as billed in '94.

Key to success: Clemson led Division I-A in turnover margin last season, a reflection of carefulness on offense and opportunism on defense that usually pays dividends in the won-lost column.

Outlook: It seemed that Clemson was the hottest team in the ACC when it won three straight games after a 2-5 start, but a sea-



Maryland linebacker Ratcliff Thomas is the ACC's top returning tackler.

passing season. His targets include the ACC's top pass-catching tight end, Bill Khayat, and Corey Thomas, who caught eight touchdown passes as a freshman. **Offensive weaknesses:** Robert Baldwin was the ACC Player of the Year in 1994 when, as a fifth-year senior, he led the ACC in rushing and touchdowns. Possible successor Matt DeOrto had his spring cut short by a broken clavicle.

Defensive strengths: The Blue Devils ranked second in Division I-A in turnover margin, due at least partly to the opportunistic play of a trio of underclassmen—free safety Ray Farmer and linebackers Billy Granville and John Zuanich.

Defensive weaknesses: Farmer could be a little vulnerable in a Duke secondary that will miss cornerback Jamal Ellis and safety Zaid Abdul-Aleem. Opponents passed for an ACC-high 2,798 yards against the Blue Devils last year.

Special teams: Heather Sue Mercer got a look at kicker in the spring, but Tom Cochran is entrenched after going 13 of 22 on field-goal attempts last year, as is punter John Krueger, whose 41.9-yard average was second in the ACC.

Key to success: The difference between last year's Duke team and its predecessors was a dependable running back. Coach Fred Goldsmith traditionally has had a balanced offense, dating to the Trevor Cobb era at Rice.

Outlook: A relatively soft early-season schedule enabled the Blue Devils to get off to a 7-0 start in 1994. Florida State awaits in the opener this year in Orlando, but there are opportunities over the next four weeks.

Coach Fred Goldsmith says: "A lot of people will say (1994) was a fluke, but I think any time you have success and get positive feedback, it makes you want to have more success."

BLUE DEVILS DATA

Coach: Fred Goldsmith (8-4, 1 year; 33-42-1 overall, 7 years).
1994 record: 8-4 (lost to Wisconsin in Hall of Fame Bowl)
ACC: 5-3/3rd

Key losses: Zaid Abdul-Aleem, SS; Robert Baldwin, RB; Jamal Ellis, CB; John Farquhar, TE; David Hawkins, LB; Jon Jensen, FL; Damon Wallace, G; Matt Williams, OT

Starters returning: Offense (6): Jeron Egge, C, 6-3/275.

Sr. Spence Fischer, CB, 6-3/220, Sr.; Bill Khayat, TE, 6-4/225, Sr.; Chad Melita, G, 6-3/280, Soph.; Jon Merrill, T, 6-4/295, Sr.; Corey Thomas, SE, 5-11/165, Soph. **Defense (8):** Carlos Bagley, LB, 5-10/210, Sr.; Ray Farmer, FS, 6-4/220, Sr.; Billy Granville, LB, 6-3/240, Jr.; Bernard Holsey, NG, 6-2/280, Sr.; James Kirkland, T (moving to E/LB), 6-2/270, Sr.; Brandon Pollock, CB, 5-10/175, Jr.; Mike Stallmeyer, T, 6-3/255, Sr.; John Zuanich, LB, 6-3/205, Sr. **Kickers (2):** Tom Cochran, K, 6-1/195, Sr.; John Krueger, P, 6-4/205, Jr.

Other key returnees: Phillip Chappell, OT, Jr.; Clarence Collins, G, Sr.; Matt DeOrto, RB, Soph.; Tee Edwards, SS, Sr.; LeVance McQueen, LB, Soph.; Joel Nicholson, FL, Jr.; Jason Ritz, LB, Sr.; Tawambi Settles, SS, Soph.; T.C. White, RB, Jr. **Returning statistical leaders:** Rushing: White (21 att., 106 yds., 1 TD) and DeOrto (16 att., 108 yds., 0 TD). Passing: Fischer (346 att., 204 comp., 8 INT, 18 TD, 2,285 yds.); Receiving: Khayat (49 rec., 562 yds., 2 TD). Tackler: Granville (115); Sacker: Zuanich (5).

Top newcomers: Lyle Burdine, LB, Fr. (RS); Kenan Holley, Fr. (RS); Brian Krenzler, FS, Fr. (RS); Chris Ruzic, LB, Fr. (RS); Desi Thomas, CB, Fr. (RS).

Site: Durham, N.C. **Stadium:** Wallace Wade Stadium (33,941).

Last league title won: 1989 (16).

2000 SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Florida State (at Orlando)	Oct. 7 —Georgia Tech Oct. 14 —at Virginia
Sept. 9 —Rutgers	Oct. 21 —N. Carolina St.
Sept. 18 —at Army	Oct. 28 —Wake Forest
Sept. 23 —at Maryland	Nov. 11 —at Clemson
Sept. 30 —Navy	Nov. 18 —at N. Carolina

7. MARYLAND

Offensive strengths: ACC receiving champion Geroy Simon has emerged as another dangerous target for quarterback Scott Milanovich, who failed to approach his 3,499 passing yards from 1993 but cut his interceptions from 18 to nine. Receiver Jermaine Lewis is one of the nation's best.

Offensive weaknesses: The running game failed to produce in late-season losses to Virginia and Syracuse, and now the Terrapins must deal with the loss of rushing leader Allen Williams. All-ACC tackle Steve Ingram and three other seniors on the line.

Defensive strengths: Maryland cut its defensive yield by more than 150 points and 1,200 yards as a freshman-dominated 1993 unit matured. Linebacker Ratcliff Thomas is the ACC's top returning tackler and cornerback Andre Johnson could play for anybody.

Defensive weaknesses: The Terrapins' defense has hardly arrived, ranking eighth in the ACC in total defense, rushing defense, pass defense and scoring defense. **Special teams:** Transfer Joe O'Donnell made nine field goals (in 10 attempts), a vast improvement over the one field goal Maryland converted in 1993. Milanovich didn't repeat as All-ACC but remains a quality punter.

Key to success: Academic casualties victimized the Terrapins before the '94 season and there was some concern in the off-season after Milanovich dropped some classes. Maryland must put an end to those and other off-the-field distractions.

Outlook: A season-opening 49-16 loss at Duke was a slap in the face for the Terps last year. This season, Maryland has a chance to show how far it has come when the Blue Devils, fresh off a Hall of Fame Bowl appearance, visit Byrd Stadium in September.

Coach Mark Duffner: "We've made it very clear to our players that our goal is a winning season. That has been the goal all along, but hopefully now we've rounded the corner."

Continued

BURNING QUESTION

Will a deserving team miss postseason fun?

Are there enough bowl games to go around for ACC members?

That has become a hot topic on the Atlantic Seaboard. And if five ACC teams again win eight games in the regular season (as they did in 1994), the howling surely will begin.

The ACC has had five bowl-eligible teams in four of the past five seasons, but it has become increasingly difficult to find slots for all of them. In fact, it took a late agreement with the Independence to get a bid for 8-3 Virginia last season—one year after the Cavaliers stayed home after finishing 7-4.

The ACC isn't even assured a spot for a fourth bowl-eligible team this year after losing its tie-in with the Outback Bowl (formerly the Hall of Fame), which dropped the ACC in favor of the SEC.

"We're kind of hanging in there with 3½ slots," said ACC associate commissioner Tom Mickle, who helped negotiate a new arrangement in which the ACC and SEC will share a spot in the Carquest Bowl.

The Carquest, locked into the third choice of Big East teams, has the fourth choice of ACC teams or the fifth choice of SEC teams—whichever it prefers—as an opponent.

ACC teams traditionally sell a lot of tickets for the Peach Bowl in Atlanta, but the greater the distance from home, the more fickle the following.

"What we really need is more bowls on the East Coast," Mickle said. "The only open slots are two in the Independence, one in the Liberty and one in the Freedom, which has never taken an ACC team."

All is not lost because the ACC will send its champion to either the Fiesta, Orange or Sugar as part of the Football Bowl Alliance. Of course, that titlist almost surely will be Florida State, winner of all 24 of its ACC games since joining the conference.

The ACC is eligible for a second alliance slot as a wild card, but that slot is available to virtually anybody in the country. Barring that, the Gator will have the second choice of ACC teams, with the Peach getting the third pick.

"I would like to have a fourth spot; I'd love to have the Carquest by ourselves," Mickle said. "But financially the alliance is great for us. Our top team is guaranteed \$8 million instead of \$4 (million)."

The difference between the top payout last year (the Sugar Bowl) and the top payout this year is \$3.55 million, to be split among nine schools, but money isn't everything when you're sitting home in front of the TV at bowl time.

—DOUG DOUGHTY

TRIAD AREA

Cosch: Mark Duthier (9-24, 3 years; 69-29-1 overall, 9 years).
1994 record: 4-7 ACC 2-6/7th.

Key losses: James Bragg, C, Jade Dubis, G; David Hack, G. Steve Ingram, OT. Raphael Wall, CB. Russ Weaver, WR. Allen Williams, RB. Enck Wood, LB.

Starters returning: **Offense (5):** Mancel Johnson, WR, 6-1/178, Jr.; Jermaine Lewis, WR, 5-8/172, Sr.; Scott Milanovich, QB, 6-3/227, Sr.; Mark Motley, T, 6-5/297, Sr.; Gerty Simon, WR, 6-0/177, Jr. **Defense (9):** Aaron Henry, T, 6-5/275, Jr.; Eric Hicks, E, 6-5/227, Soph.; Wade Inge, DB, 6-1/196, Sr.; Andre Johnson, DB, 5-10/172, Jr.; Mike Settles, LB, 6-0/200, Sr.; Jermaine Stewart, DB, 6-1/194, Jr.; Raichell Thomas, LB, 6-0/231, Jr.; Al Wallace, E, 6-4/245, Jr.; Pat Ward, NT, 6-5/296, Soph. **Kickers (2):** Scott Milanovich, P, 6-3/227, Sr.; Joe O'Donnell, K, 5-9/180, Jr.

Other key returnees: Jason Brown, DE, Soph. (RS/academics); Tim Brown, LB, Sr.; Darryl Gilliam, OT, Soph.; Lamont Gore, DB, Jr.; Erik Greenstein, C, Jr.; Johnnie Hicks, DT, Soph. (RS/academics); Orlando Strozier, DB, Soph. (RS/injury); John Teter, OG/OT, Sr.; Brian Underwood, RB, Soph.; Tim Watson, DT, Soph. (RS/academics).

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Underwood (151 att. 805 yds., 7 TD); Passing: Milanovich (333 att. 229 comp. 9 INT, 20 TD, 2,394 yds.); Receiving: Simon (77 rec., 891 yds., 5 TD); Tackler: Thomas (140); Sackler: Wallace (7.5).

Top newcomers: John Feagill, OT, Fr. (RS); Pete Sorrentino, OT, Fr. (RS/injury); Tony Surman, DT, Fr. (RS); Jason Word, WR, Jr. (JC).

Site: College Park, Md. **Stadium:** Byrd Stadium (48,000)
Last league title won: 1985.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Tulane	Oct. 21 —Clemson
Sept. 9 —North Carolina	Oct. 28 —at Louisville
Sept. 16 —West Virginia	Nov. 4 —at N. Carolina St.
Sept. 23 —Duke	Nov. 11 —Virginia
Sept. 28 —at Georgia Tech	Nov. 18 —at Florida State
Oct. 7 —at Wake Forest	

8. GEORGIA TECH

Offensive strengths: An able-bodied Mike Cheever returns at center after an injury-plagued 1994 season and rejoins an experienced unit that also features veteran Curtis McGee at tackle. Big-play threat Derrick Steagall returns at wide receiver after missing the last seven games with a broken arm.

Offensive weaknesses: The late-season ineffectiveness of the passing game was a concern for the Yellow Jackets, who gave 1993 starter Donnie Davis a chance to win back his job from Tommy Luginbill. Not only did Davis win the position, but Luginbill later decided to transfer.

Defensive strengths: Five freshmen played on the defensive line last year for Georgia Tech, which added three transfers to the mix in the off-season. Youth could be a problem, but there was enough talent to move noseguard Zach Piller to offense.

Defensive weaknesses: Jamal Cox and Rodney Wilkerson are gone after starting every game last year at inside linebacker and combining for 264 tackles. The departure of Don Hickson and Freddie Coger on the outside is further cause for concern.

Special teams: First-team All-ACC punter Jason Bender has departed and kicker Chris Leone is inconsistent on field goals (9 of 16, four misses inside the 40). Steagall always is a threat to break a return.

Key to success: The Yellow Jackets need to cut down on their turnovers after committing an ACC-high 38 last season, including 11 in the last two games. To make matters worse, they also failed to force a turnover in the last three games.

Outlook: George O'Leary brought in many of his own people after the season, so there could be some adjustment to a new staff and new ideas. The Yellow Jackets will be

improved, but the schedule includes six bowl teams, plus Georgia and Clemson.

Coach George O'Leary says: "My goal right now is to be a consistent bowl team, and that would be our goal for this year. On the offensive side, the talent base is a lot better than a 1-10 record (indicates)."

YELLOW JACKETS DATA

Cosch: George O'Leary (0-3, 1 year)

1994 record: 1-10 ACC 0-8/9th

Key losses: Jason Bender, P; Brian Bravy, G; Freddie Coger, LB; Jamal Cox, LB; Lethon Flowers, CB; David Hendrix, SS; Don Hickson, LB; Tommy Luginbill, QB (left school); Bill Neuss, DT; Jeff Papushak, TE; Charlie Simmons, SE; Michael Smith, FB; Rodney Wilkerson, LB.

Starters returning: **Offense (6):** Mike Cheever, C, 6-4/285, Sr.; Jason Dukes, T, 6-7/297, Sr.; Curtis McGee, T, 6-5/275, Jr.; Derrick Steagall, FB, 6-0/196, Jr.; Chuck Vernon, G, 6-5/319, Sr.; C.J. Williams, TB, 6-1/195, Soph. **Defense (3):** Mike Dee, FS, 6-4/190, Jr.; Ralph Hughes, E, 6-4/241, Soph.; Nate Perryman, CB, 5-9/180, Jr. **Kickers (1):** Chris Leone, K, 6-6/201, Jr.

Other key returnees: Grant Baynham, TE, Jr.; Mel Bowers, FB/TB, Jr. (RS/knee); Patrick Bradford, DT, Soph.; Ken Celaj, G, Soph.; Donnie Davis, QB, Sr.; Yoel Molina, OT, Jr. (RS/knee); Zach Piller, OT (moved from NG); Soph.; Hane Robinson, SE, Soph. (RS/hamstring); Ron Rogers, LB, Soph.; Cedric Zachery, FL, Sr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Williams (120 att., 564 yds., 1 TD); Passing: Davis (16 att., 8 comp., 1 INT, 0 TD, 58 yds.); Receiving: Zachery (28 rec., 283 yds., 1 TD); Tackler: Rogers (60); Sackler: Hughes (3.5).

Top newcomers: Kamal Balogun, DE, Jr. (JC); Tony Cannon, CB, Fr. (RS); Art Dreher, LB, Fr. (RS); Kenya Fouch, TE, Fr. (RS/knee); Curtis Hollomon, TB, Fr. (RS); Albert Jackson, DT, Jr. (transfer/Wisconsin); Jermaine Miles, DE, Jr. (JC); Charles Wiley, RB, Fr. (RS).

Site: Atlanta. **Stadium:** Grant Field (46,000)

Last league title won: 1990

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Furman	Oct. 21 —at Florida State
Sept. 7 —at Arizona	Oct. 28 —Clemson
Sept. 16 —at Virginia	Nov. 4 —at Wake Forest
Sept. 28 —Maryland	Nov. 11 —N. Carolina St.
Oct. 7 —at Duke	Nov. 23 —Georgia
Oct. 14 —North Carolina	

9. WAKE FOREST

Offensive strengths: Rusty LaRue, a starter for parts of the past two seasons, provides experience at quarterback and may not spend as much time on the run behind an experienced line. Sophomore Brian Kuklick is good enough to push LaRue.

Offensive weaknesses: Wake Forest did not have a player who rushed for 300 yards last season and the Demon Deacons gained an ACC-low 1,024 yards as a team—fewer than the Deacons' John Leach had in 1993, when he led the conference in rushing.

Defensive strengths: Safety Tom Stuetzer, a 1993 standout who missed six games with injuries last year, joins four other letter-winners in a fight for jobs in the secondary. Returning starters include cornerback Brent Morehead, who led the team in pass breakups, and talented safety Terrence Suber.

Defensive weaknesses: Wake Forest was last in the ACC in four statistical categories, so there is room for improvement all over. The most glaring void is left by the departure of linebacker Kevin Giles, who had 100 or more tackles in three consecutive seasons.

Special teams: Bill Hollows finished 9 of 16 on field-goal attempts, despite a stretch during the middle of the season when he missed four of five. Punter Mike Strazzeri is respectable, but not among the ACC's best.

Key to success: The Deacons were hurt by their youth last year, when 12 of 19 recruits played as true freshmen. Wake

Forest can only hope that the experience-gaining opportunity wasn't wasted.

Outlook: The Deacons need to build some momentum during the first four games, but that would involve winning on the road at either Tulane or Navy or both.

Coach Jim Caldwell says: "I don't think we're over the hump. I don't think, as you look around at programs having to make a big turnaround, that anybody gets over the hump in three years."

DEMON DEACONS DATA

Cosch: Jim Caldwell (5-17, 2 years)

1994 record: 3-8 ACC 1-7/8th

Key losses: Adam Dolder, WR; Kevin Giles, LB; Richard Goodpasture, SS; Eddie McKeel, C; Matt McNeal, TE; Mike Neubauer, LB; Roger Pettus, WR; Jimmy Quander, DE; Jeremiah Williams, RB.

Starters returning: **Offense (6):** Dan Ballou, WR, 5-11/160, Jr.; Rusty LaRue, QB, 6-2/194, Sr.; Bill Leeder, G, 6-3/290, Jr.; Doug Marsigli, T, 6-5/283, Jr.; Elton Ndoma-Ogar, T/G, 6-3/289, Sr.; Tony Yamall, G, 6-4/274, Jr. **Defense (7):** Robert Fatzinger, T, 6-4/261, Soph.; Rick Gardner, E, 6-3/240, Sr.; Major Griffin, DB, 6-0/171, Jr.; LaDawn Harrison, LB, 6-0/214, Jr.; Brent Morehead, CB, 6-1/192, Sr.; Terrence Suber, FS, 5-10/176, Jr.; Steve Vaughan, T, 6-5/262, Jr. **Kickers (2):** Bill Hollows, K, 6-1/214, Jr.; Mike Strazzeri, P, 6-0/200, Sr.

Other key returnees: Darrell Braswell, WR, Soph.; Thabli Davis, WR, Soph.; Jeff Flowe, OT, Soph.; Tucker Grace, LB, Sr.; Harold Gragg, DE, Jr.; Brian Kuklick, QB, Soph.; Herman Lewis, RB, Soph.; John Lewis, RB, Jr. (RS/ankle); Jon Mannon, LB, Soph.; Alexis Sockwell, CB, Sr.; Tom Stuetzer, S, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Herman Lewis (39 att., 144 yds., 1 TD); Passing: LaRue (230 att. 132 comp. 9 INT 5 TD, 1,303 yds.); Receiving: Ballou (27 rec., 307 yds., 1 TD); Tackler: Grace (87); Sackler: Gragg (3).

Top newcomers: Kelvin Moses, LB, Fr. (RS)

Site: Winston-Salem, N.C. **Stadium:** Groves Stadium (31,500)

Last league title won: 1970

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Appalachian State	Oct. 14 —at Florida State
Sept. 9 —at Tulane	Oct. 21 —at N. Carolina
Sept. 16 —Clemson	Oct. 28 —at Duke
Sept. 23 —at Navy	Nov. 4 —Georgia Tech
Sept. 30 —at Virginia	Nov. 18 —N. Carolina St.
Oct. 7 —Maryland	

Doug Doughty covers the ACC for the Roanoke (Va.) Times.



Wake Forest's backfield can rest easy knowing tackle Elton Ndoma-Ogar is standing guard.

SCOUTING THE ATLANTIC COAST

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive backfield: Florida State
Best wide receivers: Maryland
Best offensive line: Florida State
Best defensive line: Florida State
Best linebackers: Florida State
Best secondary: Virginia
Best special teams: Duke
Hardest hitter: James Walker, S, N.C. State
Best backup quarterback: Thad Busby, Florida State
Best pro prospect: Marcus Jones, DT, North Carolina
Best stadium: Clemson Memorial Stadium (Death Valley)
Best rivalry: North Carolina-N.C. State

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. Florida State (Best recruit: QB Dan Kendra). The Seminoles signed the nation's premier quarterback in Kendra, who backed off an early commitment to Penn State and Peter Warrick, a highly-touted wide receiver.
2. North Carolina (RB Andre Barkley).
3. Clemson (LB Anthony Simmons).
4. Virginia (DL Johnny Shivers).
5. N.C. State (LB Darwin Walker).
6. Georgia Tech (QB Joe Hamilton).
7. Duke (RB Dawud Rasheed).
8. Maryland (LB Jomo Huggins).
9. Wake Forest (QB Ben Sankey).

tailback Rock Preston. Warrick Dunn is the marquee back at Florida State, but teammate Preston had more rushing touchdowns (nine to eight) last season and topped the ACC in average gain per rush (8.6 yards).

Best head coach: N.C. State's Mike O'Cain. No one has done a better job the past two years than O'Cain, who, if he's not the best coach in the ACC, is the most underrated. Wolfpack fans didn't think they could forget Dick Sheridan this soon.

Best coaching staff: Florida State. Bobby Bowden might be able to coach



Center Michael Cheever will do his part to snap Georgia Tech out of its losing ways.

until he is 80 as long as he has Mark Richt to run the offense and Mickey Andrews to handle the defense.

Coach on the hot seat: Maryland's Mark Duffner. Although there are signs of improvement, Duffner begins his fourth season with a 9-24 record in College Park. A dropoff from last year's 4-7 mark might cause a cry for his scalp.

Best bets: Florida State will extend its record to 32-0 in ACC competition and enjoy its ninth consecutive 10-victory season. . . . Virginia will break an ACC record with its ninth consecutive season with seven or more victories. . . . N.C. State will have its eighth straight winning season and North Carolina its sixth. . . . Maryland will have its ninth non-winning season in the past 10. . . . Wake Forest will have its sixth losing season in the past seven. . . . Georgia Tech won't finish last again. . . . Duke won't be picked for ninth again. . . . Scott Milanovich will pass Boomer Esiason as Maryland's all-time leader in passing yardage and total offense. He needs 135 yards in the first category and 315 in the second.

Odds and ends: Duke will have its third set of coordinators in as many years with the promotion of John Zernhelt (offense) and Jeff McInerney (defense). The Blue Devils' success in 1994 meant new jobs for offensive coordinator Mike Heimerdinger (Denver Broncos) and defensive coordinator Craig Bohl (Nebraska). . . . New Georgia Tech Coach George O'Leary has assembled a staff with 209 years of coaching experience, including 29-year veteran Eddie Wilson and 28-year assistant Pat Watson. . . . Duke scored six touchdowns in 1994 on defense and special teams, as did Virginia. Florida State, in comparison, scored one. . . . Virginia enters the season with interceptions in 16 consecutive games. . . . Clemson returns three quarterbacks who started at least three games last year, although Patrick Sapp has moved to outside linebacker. . . . John Leach of Wake Forest rushed for more yards (329) in the final game of the 1993 season than any Demon Deacons back gained all of last season. . . . Mike Groh, the fourth Virginia quarterback in the past five years to lead the ACC in passing efficiency, could be the first player to top the league twice in that category. . . . More people will see Maryland at Byrd Stadium, where seating capacity has been increased from 42,000 to 48,000 with the addition of an upper deck. . . . Expansion will push capacity at Florida State's Doak Campbell Stadium to 77,500 from 75,000. . . . Clemson's Death Valley will be home to the Carolina Panthers in that team's first NFL season. . . . Duke graduated 113 of 116 players in the five-year period from 1990-94.

—DOUG DOUGHTY

Ascending: Georgia Tech. It's unrealistic to believe the Yellow Jackets will return to their NCAA co-championship form of 1990, but there's no way the Yellow Jackets will be as bad as they were last season, when everybody was waiting for the Bill Lewis regime to fall. George O'Leary inherits talent that is comparable to that at other bowl-bound ACC programs.

Descending: Duke. The Blue Devils definitely command respect now under second-year Coach Fred Goldsmith—but that's the point. Duke isn't likely to sneak up on teams like 1994 victims Maryland, Clemson and Virginia.

Nightmare schedule: Virginia. A season-opening visit to Michigan for the Pigskin Classic was a late addition to a Cavaliers schedule that includes a trip to Texas (the Longhorns won their last meeting, 68-0, in 1977) and a home game with Virginia Tech (coming off consecutive bowl appearances).

Dream schedule: One way that Duke Athletic Director Tom Butters achieved football respectability was to hire Goldsmith. Another was to downgrade a non-conference schedule that this year has Rutgers, Army and Navy.

Best matchup of the year: Florida State at Florida, November 25. These teams were so entertaining last year that they played twice. The best conference game features North Carolina at North Carolina State, with a Gator Bowl bid possibly at stake in that November 24 clash.

Worst matchup of the year: Central Florida at Florida State, September 23. The Seminoles, with dates to fill after Auburn asked out of a two-game series following conference expansion, added Notre Dame in 1994. The Fighting Irish didn't have an opening in 1995, so the Seminoles decided to help out in-state Central Florida, scheduled to move to Division I-A in 1996.

Shocker of the year: Maryland over North Carolina, September 9. A young Tar Heels team could have a problem on the road against a Maryland team that has made steady, if unspectacular, progress.

Bowl bound: Florida State, North Carolina, N.C. State, Virginia.

Biggest shoes to fill: Duke running back Robert Baldwin. Matt DeOrio and T.C. White, each of whom rushed for 106 yards last season, are the leading candidates to succeed Baldwin, the first Duke player since 1972 to lead the ACC in rushing.

Most overrated player: Florida State kicker Scott Bentley. Cover boy for a national magazine before he had played a college game, Bentley kicked the field goal that gave the Seminoles the 1993 national championship. Still, he has made only 17 of 27 field-goal attempts in two seasons and has missed 10 extra points. Plus, at one point he lost his job.

Most underrated player: Florida State

1. MIAMI

Offensive strengths: The Hurricanes will feature an experienced line led by center K.C. Jones, the kind of player who pushes defensive linemen around. Miami, which will utilize a two-back set that new Coach Butch Davis has brought from the Dallas Cowboys, could feature game-breaking speed in the backfield, thanks to tailbacks Trent Jones and Danyell Ferguson.

Offensive weaknesses: The Hurricanes could be drained by a quarterback controversy—again. Frank Costa beat Ryan Collins for starting duties a year ago. Collins is back for a final chance. The senior is a charismatic leader, a physical player (he can bench-press 400 pounds) and, unfortunately for Miami, a so-so passer. Sophomore Ryan Clement and redshirt freshman Scott Covington will battle Collins. There also will be an inexperienced group of wide receivers. Davis needs to find a fullback for his two-back offense.

Defensive strengths: Defense is Davis' forte. The former Dallas defensive coordinator helped build a championship defense at Miami under Jimmy Johnson from 1984-88 and will update the school's vaunted 4-3 alignment. Ray Lewis leads a deep, talented set of linebackers, a Miami tradition. Kenard Lang and Kenny Holmes might be the best set of ends in the nation.

Defensive weaknesses: Only cornerback Carlos Jones returns from the 1994 secondary. But the new guys can rest assured that they'll be aided by a ferocious pass rush. While the Hurricanes have awesome ends, their tackles are question marks. Who's going to replace All-America Warren Sapp? Jason McCullough and Marvin Davis, who both missed spring practice with injuries, are slated to start at tackle.

Special teams: Dane Prewitt hit 13 of 14 field-goal attempts in '94—but none over 40 yards. If Mike Crissy has recovered from a severe groin pull, he should improve upon his 36.5-yard average. Slithery Jammi German, who has yet to live up to the hype that accompanied him to Coral Gables, is an explosive return man.

Keys to success: The defense won't yield many points, but the offense may have trouble producing a lot unless a quarterback, tailback, fullback and set of wide receivers emerge.

Outlook: Miami's defense ranked first in the nation in pass efficiency, scoring and total defense. Expect the 'Canes to be equally as stingy, especially in conference play. For Miami to assume its usual perch among the nation's elite, its offense must awaken. Collins looks like the kind of player who could bring the swagger back to the Miami attack and carry this team to a Top 5 finish in the final polls.

Coach Butch Davis says: "We are truly in the middle of a quarterback battle. We won't pick a quarterback until a week to 10 days prior to the (opening) game against UCLA. We want to find the guy who can truly move the football team most efficiently."

TEAM DATA

Coach: Butch Davis (1st year).

1994 record: 10-2 (lost to Nebraska in Orange Bowl). Big East: 7-0-1st.

Key losses: Frank Costa, QB; Conwin Francis, LB; Turrell Greene, G; Jonathan Harris, TB/WR; Chris T. Jones, SE; Zev

BIG EAST

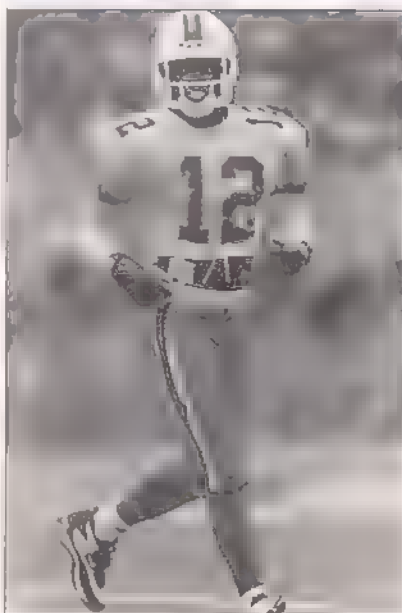
Conference Rank: 6

By DAVID RAMSEY

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. MIAMI
2. BOSTON COLLEGE
3. WEST VIRGINIA
4. VIRGINIA TECH
5. PITTSBURGH
6. SYRACUSE
7. RUTGERS
8. TEMPLE



Cornerback Carlos Jones will be surrounded by newcomers in the Miami secondary.

Lumelski, OT; Malcolm X. Pearson, SS; C.J. Richardson, FS; Pat Riley, DT; Warren Sapp, DT (declared for NFL draft); AJ Shipman, TB; James Stewart, FB (declared for NFL draft); Chad Wilson, CB.

Starters returning: **Offense (5):** Gerard Daphnis, TE, 6-3/246, Jr.; Jammi German, FL/KR, 6-0/180, Jr.; K.C. Jones, C, 6-2/257, Jr.; Ricky Perry, T, 6-7/329, Sr.; Alan Symonette, C/G, 6-3/280, Sr. **Defense (5):** James Burgess, LB, 6-0/215, Jr.; Kenny Holmes, E, 6-4/240, Jr.; Carlos Jones, CB, 5-11/173, Jr.; Kenard Lang, E, 6-4/251, Soph.; Ray Lewis, LB, 6-1/221 Jr. **Kickers (2):** Mike Crissy, P, 5-10/190, Sr.; Dane Prewitt, K, 5-11/211, Sr.

Other key returnees: Freeman Brown, OT, Soph.; Ryan Clement, QB, Soph.; Antonio Coey, LB, Jr.; Ryan Collins, QB, Sr.; Marvin Davis, DT, Jr.; Danyell Ferguson, TB, Jr.; Denny Fortney, DL, Soph.; RS-Jonee, Yate Green, WR, Soph.; Derrick Harris, FB (moved from TE); Sr.; J. Ina, G/OT, Jr.; Trent Jones, TB (moved from WR); Soph.; Earl Little, SS/FS, Jr.; Twan Russell, LB, Jr.; Jeffrey Taylor, LB, Soph.; Syri Tucker, TE, Sr.; Marcus Wimberly, WR, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Ferguson (74 att., 405 yds., 5 TD); Passing: Collins (45 att., 23 comp., 5 INT, 3 TD, 266 yds.); Receiving: German (33 rec., 391 yds., 2 TD); Tackler: Lewis (152); Sackler: Holmes (8.5).

Top newcomers: Nathaniel Brooks, CB, Fr. (RS); Scott Covington, QB, Fr. (RS); Carlo Joseph, FB, Fr. (RS); Jason

McCullough, DT, Fr. (RS); Nick Williams, FB, Fr. Site: Coral Gables, Fla. Stadium: Orange Bowl (74,476) Last league title won: 1994

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at UCLA	Oct. 28 —Temple
Sept. 9 —Florida A&M	Nov. 4 —Baylor
Sept. 23 —at Virginia Tech	Nov. 11 —at Boston College
Oct. 7 —at Florida State	Nov. 18 —West Virginia
Oct. 14 —Rutgers	Nov. 25 —Syracuse
Oct. 21 —at Pittsburgh	

2. BOSTON COLLEGE

Offensive strengths: Mark Hartsell may be ready to follow in the line of former standout Boston College quarterbacks Doug Flutie and Glenn Foley. Hartsell is tall, blessed with a strong arm and works under a coach who has a history of teaching great quarterbacks. Justice Smith should be a dangerous tailback. Hartsell and Smith will work behind a seasoned, talented line led by tackle Pete Kendall. Speedy Kenyatta Watson and Greg Grice lead an experienced receiving corps.

Offensive weaknesses: The Eagles will find it difficult, if not impossible, to replace All-America tight end Pete Mitchell. Standout blocking tight end Gordon Laro also will be missed. Todd Pollack and Scott Dragos are fighting for the job.

Defensive strengths: Despite the loss of end Mike Mamula, who left BC a year early for the NFL, the line appears ready to again flatten quarterbacks. Nose guard Tim Morabito, who paced the Big East with 13 tackles for loss, will succeed Mamula as the leader of this crew, which set a Big East record with 47 sacks last season. Foes will want to keep an eye on tackle Chris Sullivan.

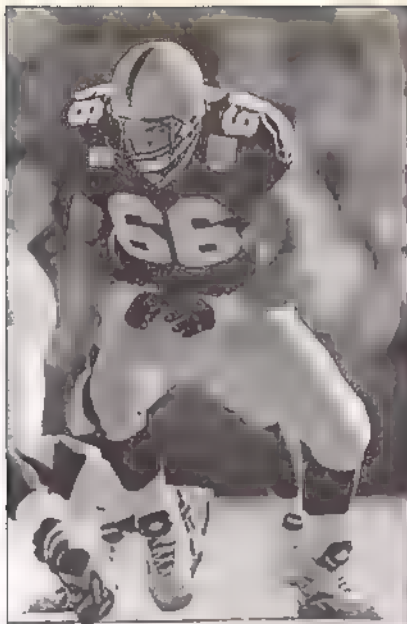
Defensive weaknesses: Matt Haff and Brian Maye must assume control of the linebacking corps now that standout Stephen Boyd is gone. They seem capable. Tony Ransome, who split time between offense and defense last season, must emerge as a solid cornerback. He'll benefit from the presence of cornerback Daryl Porter, whom the Eagles bill as one of the Big East's top defenders.

Special teams: Eagles fans may want to cover their eyes when it's time to kick. Chris Hackett is expected to be the kicker, but he never has attempted a kick in college. Freshman Jason Malecki might do the punting. Watson is a dangerous kick returner.

Keys to success: Boston College must find a kicker, and the secondary needs to recover from the loss of two starters.

Outlook: The early defection of Mamula and guard Greg Landry to the NFL might have cost Boston College its chance at a Big East title. As it is, the Eagles look ready to soar over the rest of the Big East. BC seems to have it all: a balanced offense and a defense that is inhospitable to passers and runners. Hartsell might be on the verge of stardom. One obstacle that stands in the path to a New Year's Day bowl is a daunting schedule that includes non-conference encounters with Ohio State, Michigan, Michigan State and Notre Dame.

Coach Dan Henning says: "We have a very difficult schedule to look at and say, 'Hey, we're going to go undefeated.' But where it helps you is that if you play good teams, it makes you better. Based on that, at the end of the year, we ought to be pretty good."



Boston College's backfield operatives will benefit from the blocking of tackle Pete Kendall.

EAGLES DATA

Coach: Dan Henning (7-4-1, 1 year)
1994 record: 7-4-1 (beat Kansas State in Aloha Bowl) Big East 3-3-1/5th.
Key losses: Jeff Beckley, P; Stephen Boyd, LB; David Gordon, K; David Green, RB; Greg Landry, G (declared for NFL draft); Gordon Laro, TE; Mike Mamula, DE (declared for NFL draft); Pete Mitchell, TE; Michael Reed, CB; Ed Sanabria, LB; Eric Shorter, SS.
Starters returning: Offense (7): Greg Grice, SE, 5-9/188; Sr. Mark Harrell, QB, 6-5/218, Jr.; Pete Kendall, T, 6-5/287; Sr. Mark Non, G, 6-4/290, Jr.; Tim O'Brien, C, 6-3/278, Sr.; Dan Onskovich, T, 6-3/289, Jr.; Kanyatta Watson, SE, 5-10/176, Jr. Defense (6): Nick Giancacos, E, 6-5/250, Jr.; Matt Hall, LB, 6-3/225, Jr.; Tim Morabito, NG, 6-3/263, Sr.; Daryl Porter, CB, 5-9/178, Jr.; Chris Sullivan, T, 6-5/273, Sr.; Terence Wiggins, FS, 5-11/194, Sr. Kickers: None.
Other key returners: Markell Blount, LB, Soph.; Rob Clifford, FS, Sr.; Stalin Colinet, DE, Jr.; Scott Dragos, TE, Soph.; Chris Hackett, K, Soph.; Brian Maye, LB, Jr.; Scott Mutryn, QB, Soph.; Joe O'Brien, DE, Sr.; Todd Pollack, TE, Soph.; Tony Ransome, CB, Sr.; Justice Smith, TB, Sr.; Mario Tilman, RB, Soph. (RS/nee); Omar Walker, RB, Soph.
Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Smith (146 att., 708 yds., 4 TD); Passing: Harrell (257 att., 159 comp., 10 INT, 13 TD, 1,864 yds.); Receiving: Watson (43 rec., 568 yds., 3 TD); Tackler: Porter (76); Sackler: Morabito (8).
Top newcomers: Doug Brzezinski, OT/G, Fr. (RS); Mike Cloud, RB, Fr. (RS); Dennis Harding, WR, Fr. (RS); Jason Maecod, P, Fr.; Willie Wright, DB, Fr. (RS).
Site: Chestnut Hill, Mass. **Stadium:** Alumni Stadium (44,500).
Last league title won: None.

SCHEDULE

Aug. 27 —Ohio State	Oct. 21 —Army
(Kickoff Classic, E. Rutherford, NJ)	Oct. 28 —at Notre Dame
Sept. 7 —at Virginia Tech	Nov. 4 —at Temple
Sept. 16 —Michigan	Nov. 11 —Miami
Sept. 30 —at Michigan State	Nov. 18 —at Syracuse
Oct. 7 —Pittsburgh	Nov. 24 —at Rutgers
Oct. 14 —West Virginia	

3. WEST VIRGINIA

Offensive strengths: The Mountaineers are loaded at the skill positions. Quarterback Chad Johnston boasts experience and an accurate arm. If tailback Robert Walker is healthy and motivated, he easily could break the 1,000-yard rushing barrier. If Walker falters, West Virginia can turn to bruising Jimmy Gary. The tailbacks will run behind massive fullback Kantroy Barber. Rahsaan Vanterpool is a dangerous wide receiver who runs like a halfback. Versatile Lovett Purnell returns at tight end.

Offensive weaknesses: Unfortunately for West Virginia, these skill players will work behind a questionable line, one that baffled Coach Don Nehlen with its inconsistency last season. The line is dominated by four seniors who are returning starters, but Nehlen is looking for new blood. Watch for redshirt freshmen guards Ted Daniels and Randy Dunnigan, along with redshirt freshman center Eric DeGroh, to sneak into the lineup.

Defensive strengths: The Mountaineers believe their secondary will be the best in school history. Cornerback Aaron Beasley, who led the nation with 10 interceptions last season, is the leader of a pack that also includes strong safety Charles Emanuel, free safety Vann Washington and cornerback Mike Logan. J.T. Thomas is a punishing presence at inside linebacker, while Canute Curtis is an oppressive pass rusher from outside linebacker.

Defensive weaknesses: The secondary led the conference in interceptions (20) but also paced the Big East in getting burned. This all-or-nothing attitude needs to be altered if West Virginia wishes to have a truly formidable defense. The line could be a source of much grief.

Special teams: All-America punter Todd Sauerbrun is irreplaceable. Brad Hackett will try to step in. Bryan Baumann, who hit 13 of 19 field-goal attempts, is a decent kicker, but he must increase his accuracy from long distance. He was 1 of 2 from 40-plus yards. Vanterpool is one of Big East's best return men.

Keys to success: More consistent play from the offensive line, and a solid defensive front must emerge.

Outlook: After Miami and Boston College, the Big East takes a tumble in terms of talent. West Virginia possesses the stars on offense and defense to climb above the rest of the field. Look for the Mountaineers to earn a low-tier bowl bid—just like last season.

Coach Don Nehlen says: "Robert Walker has the speed of the elite backs, I know that, but I'm not sure if he works hard enough. Sometimes he doesn't work hard enough to be up there with the elite."

MOUNTAINEERS DATA

Coach: Don Nehlen (110-61-4, 15 years, 278-131-14, 24 years).
1994 record: 7-6 (lost to South Carolina in Carquest Bowl). Big East: 4-3/3rd.
Key losses: Zach Abraham, WR; John Browning, DT (declared for NFL draft); Jim Freeman, FB; Barry Hawkins, DT; Harold Kidd, CB; David Mayfield, SS; Steven Perkins, DE; Tom Robsack, G; Todd Sauerbrun, P; Matt Talloni, LB; Puppy Wright, LB.
Starters returning: Offense (9): Jay Brooks, C, 6-3/265, Sr.; Joe DeLong, T, 6-5/265, Sr.; Jimmy Gary, TB, 6-0/220, Sr.; Buddy Hager, G, 6-4/275, Sr.; Chad Johnston, QB, 6-3/200, Jr.; Chris Kirk, T, 6-8/300, Sr.; Lovett Purnell, TE, 6-3/235, Sr.; Rahsaan Vanterpool, WR, 5-11/185, Jr.; Robert Walker, TB, 5-11/200, Sr. Defense (6): Aaron Beasley, CB, 6-0/190, Sr.; Canute Curtis, LB, 6-2/245, Jr.; Charles Emanuel, SS, 6-1/190, Jr.; Mike Logan, CB, 6-1/200, Jr.; T. Thomas, LB, 6-2/235, Sr.; Vann Washington, FS, 6-1/195, Jr. Kickers (1): Bryan Baumann, K, 5-11/180, Soph.
Other key returners: Bernardo Amerson, LB, Jr.; Kantroy Barber, FB, Sr.; Derrick Bell, G/C, Sr.; Bo Chatfield, LB, Jr.; Brad Hackett, P, Soph.; Elige Longino, LB, Jr.; Keith Morris, DT, Sr.; Henry Slay, DT/DE, Soph.; Jamie Sweeney, LB, Soph.; Eldridge Williams, S, Sr.
Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Walker (179 att., 749 yds., 1 TD); Passing: Johnston (242 att., 124 comp., 7 INT, 16 TD, 1,863 yds.); Receiving: Vanterpool (50 rec., 849 yds., 5 TD); Tackler: Thomas, (123); Sackler: Curtis (8).
Top newcomers: Ted Daniels, G, Fr. (RS); Eric DeGroh, C, Fr. (RS); Randy Dunnigan, G, Fr. (RS); Bernard Russ, LB, Jr. (RS).

Site: Morgantown, W.Va. **Stadium:** Mountaineer Field (63,500).
Last league title won: 1993.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Purdue	Oct. 21 —at Syracuse
Sept. 9 —Temple	Oct. 28 —Virginia Tech
Sept. 16 —at Maryland	Nov. 4 —Rutgers
Sept. 23 —Kent	Nov. 18 —at Miami
Sept. 30 —at East Carolina	Nov. 24 —Pittsburgh
Oct. 14 —at Boston College	

4. VIRGINIA TECH

Offensive strengths: Dwayne Thomas and Ken Oxendine form a dangerous combination at tailback. Fullback Brian Edmonds, a little pudgy last season, is slimmer and quicker. Acrobatic Bryan Still heads a receiving corps that Virginia Tech believes is superlative.

Offensive weaknesses: The Hokies must find a quarterback to replace the dynamic Maurice DeShazo, who basically was the offense last season. Junior Jim Druckenmiller, a classic pocket passer, is a tall, bulky player who has the look of a linebacker. Speedy redshirt freshman Al Clark, who is a fine scrambler and runner, reminds many of DeShazo. The new quarterback must hope that the line shows improvement. Coaches know they can count on center Billy Conaty and guard Chris Malone.

Defensive strengths: Plenty. Pass-rusher supreme Cornell Brown is probably the most dominating defender to play for the Hokies since Bruce Smith. Also keep an eye on tackle J.C. Price and end Hank Coleman. The secondary, led by safeties Torrian Gray and William Yarborough, along with cornerback Antonio Banks, could be the best in the conference and should be one of the best in the nation. George DelRocco is the star of the linebacking corps.

Defensive weaknesses: The Hokies appeared to run out of energy at the end of last season. Tech must find new depth so its stars don't grow weary.

Special teams: The kicking game could be shaky. Redshirt freshman John Thomas will punt and Atle Larsen, who hit 3 of 6 field-goal attempts in limited duty last season, is expected to handle the kicking. Still is a big-play return man.

Keys to success: The Hokies must find a quarterback and, with him, a passing game. The team also must respond to new offensive (Rickey Bustle) and defensive (Bud Foster and Rod Sharpless) coordinators.

Outlook: Virginia Tech's defense again looks powerful, but the offense, anemic last season when it ranked sixth in the league, must find ways to score. If someone—Druckenmiller, Thomas, Clark—emerges as an offensive catalyst, the Hokies could have an outside chance to challenge for Big East supremacy. Tech could be hampered by the fact it has just five home games.

Coach Frank Beamer says: "Certainly Miami is the class of our league. They've done it at the national level for many, many years. They give us something to shoot for. We're getting closer. We're not there yet, but we're getting closer."

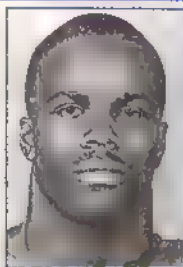
HOKIES DATA

Coach: Frank Beamer (41-47-2, 8 years, 83-70-4 overall, 14 years).

Continued

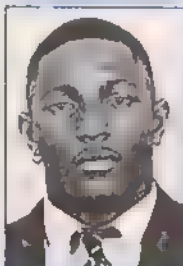
PRESEASON All-Big East TEAM

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



BILLY WEST
RB Pittsburgh

OFFENSE



RAY LEWIS
LB Miami

DEFENSE

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE: Donovan McNabb, QB, Syracuse

DEFENSE: Willie Brown, LB, Temple

COACH OF THE YEAR

Don Nehlen, West Virginia

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	REGG E FUNDERBURK Rutgers	5-10/175	Jr
WR	MARVIN HARRISON Syracuse	6-1/173	Sr
TE	MARCO BATTAGLIA Rutgers	6-3/240	Sr
T	PETE KENDALL Boston College	6-5/287	Sr
T	RON PERRY Miami	6-7/329	Sr
G	CY ELLSWORTH Syracuse	6-4/283	Sr
G	CHRIS MALONE Virginia Tech	6-3/270	Sr
C	K C JONES Miami	6-2/257	Jr
QB	HENRY BURRIS Temple	6-1/175	Jr
RB	BILLY WEST Pittsburgh	5-10/195	Jr
RB	TERRELL WALLS Rutgers	6-0/200	Jr

DEFENSE

E	KENARD LANG Miami	6-4/251	Soph
NG	T.M. MORABITO Boston College	6-3/263	Sr
T	J.C. PRICE Virginia Tech	6-3/280	Sr
E	CORNELL BROWN Virginia Tech	6-2/240	Jr
LB	RAY LEWIS Miami	6-1/221	Jr
LB	LANCE JOHNSTONE Temple	6-3/242	Sr
LB	TOM TUMULTY Pittsburgh	6-4/240	Sr
CB	AARON BEASLEY West Virginia	6-0/190	Sr
CB	CARLOS JONES Miami	5-11/173	Jr
S	MARK WASHINGTON Rutgers	5-9/190	Sr
S	TORRAN GRAY Virginia Tech	6-0/192	Jr

SPECIALISTS

K	DANE PREWITT Miami	5-11/211	Sr
P	SEAN REAL Syracuse	5-11/194	Jr
KR	JIM TURNER Syracuse	6-4/212	Soph

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	RAHSAAN VANTERPOOL West Virginia	5-11/185	Jr
WR	DETROIT JELLS Pittsburgh	6-1/190	Sr
TE	LOVETT PURNELL West Virginia	6-3/235	Sr
T	DAN ORSKOVICH Boston College	6-3/289	Jr
T	JON CLARK Temple	6-6/342	Sr
G	CHRIS KENNEDY Rutgers	6-4/280	Sr
G	JOHN SUMMERDAY Temple	6-2/290	Sr
C	BILLY CONATY Virginia Tech	6-3/291	Jr
QB	RAY LUCAS Rutgers	6-3/210	Sr
RB	MALCOLM THOMAS Syracuse	5-8/196	Jr
RB	ROBERT WALKER West Virginia	5-11/200	Sr

DEFENSE

E	HANK COLEMAN Virginia Tech	6-2/240	Sr
T	CHRIS SULLIVAN Boston College	6-5/273	Sr
T	MIKE HALAPIN Pittsburgh	6-5/275	Sr
E	KENNY HOLMES Miami	6-4/240	Jr
LB	WILLIE BROWN Temple	6-1/219	Jr
LB	TYAN RUSSELL Miami	6-2/206	Jr
LB	GEORGE DELRICCO Virginia Tech	6-1/230	Sr
CB	ANTONIO BANKS Virginia Tech	5-10/190	Jr
CB	DENORSE MOSLEY Pittsburgh	6-0/175	Jr
S	VANIN WASHINGTON West Virginia	6-1/195	Jr
S	EARL LITTLE Miami	6-1/163	Jr

SPECIALISTS

K	BRYAN BAUMANN West Virginia	5-11/180	Soph
P	NATE COCHRAN Pittsburgh	6-5/210	Jr
KR	BRYAN STALL Virginia Tech	6-0/170	Sr

1994 record: 8-4 (lost to Tennessee in Gator Bowl) Big East: 5-2/2nd.

Key losses: Ken Brown, LB; Robbie Coley, P; Maurice DeShazo, QB; Antonio Freeman, SE; Kevin Martin, TE; Damien McMahon, G; Ryan Williams, K.

Starters returning: Offense (7): Mike Bianchin, T, 6-4/286, Sr.; Billy Conaty, C, 6-3/291, Jr.; Brian Edmonds, FB, 5-10/227, Jr.; Jay Hagood, T, 6-4/299, Jr.; Chris Malone, G, 6-3/270, Sr.; Bryan Still, FL/KR, 6-0/170, Sr.; Dwayne Thomas, TB, 5-11/202, Sr. Defense (10): Antonio Banks, CB (moved from S), 5-10/190, Jr.; Cornell Brown, E, 6-2/240, Jr.; Hank Coleman, E, 6-2/240, Sr.; George DelRicco, LB, 6-1/230, Sr.; Torran Gray, S, 6-0/192, Jr.; Larry Green, CB, 5-7/167, Jr.; Waverly Jackson, T, 6-3/309, Jr.; J.C. Price, T, 6-3/280, Sr.; Brandon Semones, LB, 6-0/204, Jr.; William Yarborough, S (moved from CB), 6-0/166, Sr. Kickers: None. Other key returnees: Jim Baron, DT, Sr.; Jim Druckenmiller, QB, Jr.; Jermaine Holmes, SE, Sr.; Bryan Jennings, TE, Jr.; Alie Larsen, K, Sr.; Lawrence Lewis, DE, Sr.; Tony Morrison, LB, Soph.; Ken Oxendine, TB, Soph.; T.J. Washington, OT, Jr.; Todd Washington, G, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Thomas (142 att., 655 yds., 5 TD); Passing: Druckenmiller (20 att., 10 comp 1 INT, 1 TD, 75 yds.); Receiving: Holmes (34 rec., 432 yds. 0 TD); Tackles: DelRicco (130); Sack: Brown (11).

Top newcomers: Jason Benish, LB, Fr. (RS); AJ Clark, QB, Fr. (RS); James Crawford, WR, Fr. (RS); Pedro Edison, TE, Fr.; Tyron Edmond, DB, Fr.; Greg Melvin, RB/DB, Jr. (JC); Myron Newsome, LB, Jr. (JC); Keith Short, DE/TE, Fr.; John Thomas, P, Fr. (RS).

Site: Blacksburg, Va. Stadium: Lane Stadium (51,000)

Last league title won: None

SCHEDULE

Sept. 7 —Boston College	Oct. 21 —at Rutgers
Sept. 18 —Cincinnati	Oct. 28 —at West Virginia
Sept. 23 —Miami	Nov. 4 —Syracuse
Sept. 30 —at Pittsburgh	Nov. 11 —at Temple
Oct. 7 —at Navy	Nov. 18 —at Virginia
Oct. 14 —Alcorn	

5. PITTSBURGH

Offensive strengths: Billy West doesn't look imposing, but the Big East Offensive Player of the Year sees holes and is exceedingly difficult to tackle. He even

cruised through Miami's defense (34 carries for 160 yards) last season. The knock on West used to be his lack of speed, but he is quicker now, which will make him tougher to catch. Look for him to again lead the league in rushing. Receiver Dietrich Jells and quarterback John Ryan, who surprised many by leading the Big East in passing efficiency (159.7), form a solid combination.

Offensive weaknesses: West will run and Ryan will throw behind a questionable line. Pitt must find a replacement for departed tackle Reuben Brown. West is durable, but

he may break down if he is overused. And there's little depth behind him. The Panthers must find a reliable fullback.

Defensive strengths: An experienced line returns, led by tackle Mike Halapin and end Zaiti Moody. Tom Tumulty, a rugged tackler, heads a decent crew of linebackers. Denorse Mosley is a savvy cornerback, and watch for Anthony Dorsett, son of Tony, to emerge at the other corner.

Defensive weaknesses: Part of the line's experience includes yielding too many yards last season. The Panthers must become tougher against the run (172.4

yards per game, seventh in the Big East). The team has a gaping hole at free safety, where John Jenkins and Chuck Brown will compete for the job.

Special teams: The Panthers led the Big East in kickoff returns (21.7) and ranked fourth in punts (8.7). Mark Butler is back from a shoulder injury to return kicks, while Mosley again will run back punts. The duo could get help from speed demons Jells and Dorsett. Nate Cochran is back after averaging 41.8 yards per punt. Steve Kalmanides, who redshirted, will try to regain the kicking job he held in 1993, when he hit 4 of 8 field-goal attempts.

Keys to success: West must remain healthy, the offensive line must open decent-sized holes and the defense must mature and stop the run.



Cornell Brown is probably the most dominating defender to play for Virginia Tech since Bruce Smith.

Outlook: The Panthers have made strides under Coach John Majors and look ready to climb over the .500 mark. If he doesn't get worn out, West could carry Pitt to respectability by himself. The defense, with nine starters back from a unit that ranked seventh in the Big East in total (416 yards per game) and scoring (27.9) defense, has the potential to improve. But a difficult non-league schedule that features Washington State, Texas and Ohio State could impede progress.

Coach John Majors says: "Billy West kind of came out of nowhere. He was not the most highly recruited young man. But he has outstanding balance and he sees daylight as well as anybody sees it. He's hard-nosed, just extremely tough, and his new speed is very encouraging. He already had the quickness and the wonderful running ability."

PANTHERS DATA

Coach: John Majors (39-29-1, 6 years; 179-121-10 overall, 27 years.)

1994 record: 3-8 Big East; 2-5/7th.

Key losses: Tom Barnet, DE; Matt Bloom, OT; Reuben Brown, OT; Hayes Clark, LB; Billy Davis, WR; Curtis Martin, TB (declared for NFL draft); David Merriell, K; Lawson Molica, C; Gerald Simpson, LB; Maurice Washington, FB.

Starters returning: Offense (6): Jeff Craig, G, 6-5/285, Jr.; Dietrich Jells, WR, 6-1/190, Sr.; John Ryan, QB, 6-3/210, Sr.; Dell Seagraves, TE, 6-3/240, Sr.; Reggie Thomas, C (moved from G), 6-5/265, Soph.; Billy West, TB, 5-10/195, Jr. Defense (9): Jason Chavis, LB, 6-2/245, Sr.; Anthony Dorsett, CB, 5-11/190, Sr.; Mike Halapin, T, 6-5/275, Sr.; Zati Moody, E, 6-2/235, Sr.; Denorse Mosley, CB, 6-0/175, Jr.; David Sumner, LB (moved from FS), 6-2/205, Sr.; Tom Turnulty, LB, 6-4/240, Sr.; Jim Williams, SS, 5-11/190, Jr.; Tyler Young, T, 6-4/275, Sr. Kickers (1): Nate Cochran, P, 6-5/210, Jr.

Other key returnees: Curtis Anderson, WR, Jr.; Mark Butler WR/KR, Jr.; Jeff Craig, G, Jr.; Tim Glass, G, Jr.; John Jenkins, FS, Soph.; Steve Kaimanides, K, Soph. (RS); Jon McCray, LB, Sr.; Curtis McGhee, FS, Jr.; Mike Mohring, DE, Jr.; Tony Oriandini, OT, Soph.; Tim Robbins, OT (moved from DL), Sr.; Vince Williams, FB, Sr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: West (252 att., 1,358 yds., 8 TD). Passing: Ryan (144 att., 87 comp., 8 NT, 14 TD, 1,294 yds.). Receiving: Jells (35 rec., 813 yds., 4 TD). Tackler: Chavis (98). Sacker: Young (4.5).

Top newcomers: Chuck Brown, FS, Fr. (RS); Dante Bryant, WR, Fr. (RS); Philip Clarke, LB, Fr.; Maurice Harris, DE, Jr. (JC); Chris Schneider, FB, Fr. (RS); Martin Young, DL, Fr. (RS). Site: Pittsburgh. Stadium: Pitt Stadium (56,500).

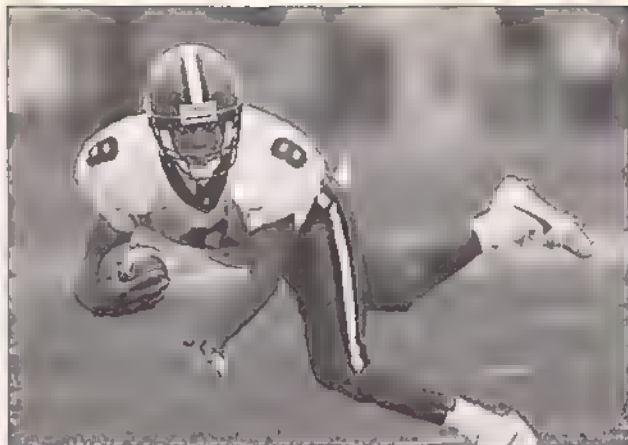
Last league title won: None.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Washington State	Oct. 14 —at Temple
Sept. 9 —Eastern Michigan	Oct. 21 —Miami
Sept. 16 —at Texas	Oct. 28 —at Rutgers
Sept. 23 —Ohio State	Nov. 11 —Syracuse
Sept. 30 —Virginia Tech	Nov. 24 —at West Virginia
Oct. 7 —at Boston College	

B. SYRACUSE

Offensive strengths: Marvin Harrison has the entire package at wide receiver. He combines the best qualities of a game-breaker and a possession wideout. Malcolm Thomas, a compact package at tailback, pops into holes and could become



Syracuse's Marvin Harrison combines the best qualities of a game-breaker and a possession wide receiver.

Syracuse's best runner since Joe Morris.

Offensive weaknesses: The Orangemen must develop a passing game, which they lacked last season. The quarterback position is wide open. If redshirt freshman Donovan McNabb wins the job, he might be able to spark the team. At the end of '94, it seemed opponents had figured out Syracuse's freeze-option attack. But Coach Paul Pasqualoni vows to stick with the offense, a move that could result in disaster and losses. Developing linemen is a priority. **Defensive strengths:** The Orangemen have talent, though most of it is unproven, at linebacker. Dulayne Morgan has all the gifts to become a star at outside linebacker. The coaches know Nate Hemsley and Antwaune Ponds are quality linebackers.

Defensive weaknesses: Opposing quarterbacks had plenty of time to survey Syracuse's secondary last season. The line played without aggression and lacked effectiveness. The Orangemen hired Ed Orgeron, who helped craft several snarling lines at Miami from 1989-92, in an attempt to bring some fire to the defense. There's only one problem: Orgeron won't be coaching the kind of talent he had at UM. Two starters must be replaced in the secondary. **Special teams:** Olindo Mare, who kicked off last season and added placements at midseason, is back after making 3 of 7 field-goal attempts. Sean Reali, who pulled double-duty for half of last year before focusing on punting, finished third in the Big East with a 43.4-yard average. Harrison (9.2 punt-return average) and Jim Turner (24.6 kickoff-return average) each ranked second in the Big East.

Key to success: A quarterback who can throw must be found to revive Syracuse's offense and, for that matter, the program.

Outlook: This is a team that badly needs a revival. Entering the 1993 season, the Orangemen seemed on the brink of becoming one of the nation's powerhouse programs. Talent remains, but fresh plans for a stale offense and fire for a soft defense must be found for Syracuse to move into the upper division.

Coach Paul Pasqualoni says: "We feel good. We feel very positive. We have a very good group. The feeling here is quite positive and optimistic."

Continued

BURNING QUESTION

Will new coach really tone down the 'Canes?

Close your eyes and think about the Miami Hurricanes football program.

Chances are, images of gyrating, finger-pointing players will dance in your head.

Butch Davis, Miami's new coach, hopes to change that perception, which may have reached its peak at the 1991 Cotton Bowl, when the 'Canes humiliated Texas with a display of taunting that would have embarrassed a pro wrestler during a 46-3 whipping of the Longhorns.

"We would like to change just the—oh, you know—the perception around the country of our program," said Davis, who assumes command from Dennis Erickson.

Davis, 43, knows all about the 'Canes and their bad-boy persona. He coached the defensive line at Miami from 1984-88 before following Jimmy Johnson to Dallas. So when Hurricanes players staged a walkout from the 1987 Fiesta Bowl steak fry, Davis was there. He believes such antics hide the true picture of the program.

"It's a shame that there has been the negative publicity over a period of time for the perceived on-the-field or off-the-field antics or whatever you want to call it," he said. "When you truly get to know these kids, they are absolutely wonderful kids. Tons of these kids you'd love to have as your sons, love to have as son-in-laws to marry your daughters."

Some would scoff at that notion, thinking the 'Canes always will be college football's pit bull. Is Davis the man to muzzle Miami?

He'll certainly try. And he certainly seems perfect for the part.

A conservative who was raised in Oklahoma, Davis spit-polishes his shoes. He adores *Star Trek* movies and his personality veers toward the Mr. Spock mode. You know the type: in control, no nonsense.

But don't expect Davis to attempt a complete transformation of the 'Canes and their whoop-it-up mystique.

He wants to see happy players. If the players are happy, that means something positive has happened on the field.

"I don't think," he said, "that you can take, and I don't want to take, emotion out of our football game. But that emotion needs to be vented in another direction. There isn't any place in athletics for emotion vented at the expense of embarrassing the opponent."

"But I don't think there's anybody who watches an athletic contest who minds the genuine emotion that comes after a touchdown or blocking a punt. Everybody knows that isn't being unsportsmanlike."

—DAVID RAMSEY

BRANGEMEN DATA

Coach: Paul Pasquaoni (33-12-1, 4 years, 67-29-1 overall, 9 years)

1994 record: 7-4, Big East 4-3/T3rd

Key losses: Wilky Bazile, DT; Bryce Bevil, CB, Eric Chenoweth, TE; Dan Conley, LB; Kirby Dar Dar, TB, Ed Hobson, NG, Tony Jones, FS, Jim Ledger, OT; Kevin Mason, QB, Melvin Tulan, OT; Dave Wohlabaugh, C.

Starters returning: **Offense (5):** Cy Ellsworth, G, 6-4/283, Sr., Marvin Harrison, WR/PR, 6-1/173, Sr., Terry Morris, FB, 5-11/217, Jr., Shelton Prescott, G, 6-4/310, Jr., Sr. Max Wilson, WR, 6-2/221, Sr. **Defense (6):** Kevin Abrams, CB, 5-9/159, Jr.; Scott Freeman, T, 6-3/243, Jr.; Chris Marques, LB, 6-3/237, Sr., Darrell Parker, SS, 5-8/186, Sr., Antwaine Ponds, LB, 6-2/224, Soph., Dave Rebar, NG, 6-3/232, Sr. **Kickers (2):** Olindo Mare, K, 5-11/174, Sr., Sean Reali, P, 5-11/194, Jr.

Other key returnees: Dana Cottrell, LB, Jr., Rod Gadsen, CB, Soph., Nate Hensley, LB, Jr.; Dwayne Morgan, LB, Soph., Harvey Pennypacker, C, Jr., Malcolm Thomas, TB, Jr.; Jim Turner, WR/KR, Soph., Roland Williams, TE, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Thomas (113 att, 642 yds., 3 TD); Passing: None.; Receiving: Harrison (36 rec., 761 yds., 5 TD); Tackler: Ponds (122); Sackler: Rebar (3)

Top newcomers: Kevin Johnson, QB, Fr (RS); Donovan McNabb, QB, Fr (RS); Jason Poles, LB, Fr (RS); Shawn Summerville, CB, Fr (RS)

Site: Syracuse, N.Y. Stadium: Carrier Dome (50,000).

Last league title won: None.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at North Carolina	Oct. 21 —West Virginia
Sept. 9 —East Carolina	Nov. 4 —at Virginia Tech
Sept. 23 —Minnesota	Nov. 11 —at Pittsburgh
Sept. 30 —at Rutgers	Nov. 18 —Boston College
Oct. 7 —Temple	Nov. 25 —at Miami
Oct. 14 —Eastern Michigan	

7. RUTGERS

Offensive strengths: Terrell Willis and Bruce Presley combine to form an elusive, explosive tailback attack. Presley runs with power, Willis with speed. The duo could combine for more than 2,000 yards, if Presley is healthy. If quarterback Ray Lucas is healthy, Rutgers will benefit from his accurate arm and superb running skills. Marco Battaglia may be the best tight end in the nation, and receiver Reggie Funderburk possesses speed and good hands.

Offensive weaknesses: Willis, Presley and Lucas are injury-prone. Rutgers has to score points, lot of points, to win. That was a problem in '94, as the Scarlet Knights averaged a league-low 21.9 points. Scoring will be difficult if the coaches can't replace three departed starters on the line.

Defensive strengths: Not many. The Scarlet Knights are experienced, but consid-

ering their struggles last season, that may be more of a problem than a blessing. The coaches think the linebackers will be solid. Keep an eye on tackle Rashod Swinger.

Defensive weaknesses: Rutgers must find answers in the secondary. Mark Washington is a quality strong safety, but he needs help. The top two linemen are gone.

Special teams: Funderburk and Willis are dependable return men, but others may get in on the act. Punter Jared Sloan, who ranked last in the Big East with a 35.3-yard average, will battle Joe Kucowski to keep his job. Kucowski, who kicked off in '94, leads a crowd of candidates for kicking duties.

Keys to success: Health in the offensive backfield and improvement by the defense, which ranked last in the Big East against the pass in its first year playing a 4-3 alignment, are musts if anyone in New Brunswick has visions of prosperity.

Outlook: Rutgers should score points, but the Scarlet Knights must find a way to prevent them, especially through the air, if they are to climb above Pitt and Syracuse to become a low-level bowl team. Don't count on it.

Coach Doug Graber says: "Do we have to talk about our defense? I don't know if we have any strengths on defense. We still have a long way to go there. Anything we do or don't do depends on what our defense does."

SCARLET KNIGHTS DATA

Coach: Doug Graber (25-29-1, 5 years; 31-34-1 overall, 6 years)

1994 record: 5-5-1 Big East 2-4-1/6th

Key losses: John Bleich, C. Wes Bridges, FB; Karl Bryant DT; Alondes Catalanho, LB; Ken Dammann, OT; Ed Duborg, K; Bob Sneathen, DE; Curtis Truitt, DB; Kareem Williams, G

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Robert Barr, T, 6-5/295, Sr. Marco Battaglia, TE, 6-3/240, Sr., Reggie Funderburk, WR, 5-10/175, Jr.; Steve Harper, WR, 5-10/160, Soph.; Chris Kennedy, G, 6-4/280, Sr.; Ray Lucas, QB, 6-3/210, Sr., Terrell Willis, TB, 6-0/200, Jr. **Defense (7):** Rashawn Giddings, LB, 6-1/230, Sr.; Jim Guarnera, T, 6-5/275, Sr.; Thomas Kelly, FS, 5-11/190, Soph.; Rusty Swartz, LB, 6-1/230, Jr.; Rashod Swinger, T, 6-3/285, Jr.; Derek Ward, CB, 5-11/170, Jr.; Mark Washington, SS, 5-9/190, Sr. **Kickers (2):** Joe Kucowski, K, 6-3/200, Sr.; Jared Sloan, P, 6-4/195, Soph.

Other key returnees: Mike Brestle, LB, Jr.; Jonathan Gibbs, WR, Sr.; Pat Gorman, G, Sr.; Robert Higgins, QB, Sr.; Chris Hutton, WR, Soph.; Mike Karwacki, DE, Soph.; Jack McGernan, OL, Soph.; Bruce Presley, TB, Sr.; Brian Shendan, LB, Jr.; Rudy Smith, DE, Sr.; Eddie Walker, WR, Sr. (RS/academics)

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Willis (216 att., 1,080 yds., 5 TD); Passing: Lucas (268 att., 156 comp., 10 INT, 16 TD, 1,869 yds.); Receiving: Battaglia (58 rec., 779 yds., 4 TD); Tackler: Washington (95); Sackler: Swinger (4).

Top newcomers: Cameron Chadwick, DB, Jr. (JC); Bill Powell, WR, Fr (RS); Kerry Ware, DT, Jr. (JC).

Site: East Brunswick, N.J. Stadium: Rutgers Stadium (41,500)

Last league title won: None

SCHEDULE

Sept. 9 —at Duke	Oct. 28 —Pittsburgh
Sept. 16 —Navy	Nov. 4 —at West Virginia
Sept. 23 —Penn State	Nov. 11 —at Tulane
Sept. 30 —Syracuse	Nov. 18 —at Temple
Oct. 14 —at Miami	Nov. 24 —Boston College
Oct. 21 —Virginia Tech	

8. TEMPLE

Offensive strengths: Quarterback Henry Burris carried the offense last season. With virtually no running game, he still managed to pick apart defenses to the tune of a league-high 249.7 yards passing per game. With Burris throwing to Van Johnson, Marc Baxter and Troy Kersey, the Owls' passing game again will be mighty.

Offensive weaknesses: The Owls can't run. Period. For Temple to win, it must develop a rushing attack to keep defenses somewhat honest. Junior tailback Juan

Gaddy hasn't lived up to his high school hype. Guard John Summerday will do his part to open holes for a unit that averaged a measly 77.4 yards rushing per game.

Defensive strengths: Lance Johnstone, Alabama transfer Willie Brown and Alshermund Singleton lead a linebacking corps that could revive a sorry defense. Johnstone is one of the hidden stars of the East, a ferocious hitter who also can drop into pass coverage.

Defensive weaknesses: Temple couldn't run last season, and the Owls couldn't stop the run, ranking last in the Big East (232.4 yards per game). To keep from getting stomped this season, Temple, which allowed a league-high 445.1 yards per game, must radically improve a shaky line.

Special teams: John Shay returns after averaging 38.8 yards per punt. Zane Michalski will be challenged by a freshman for the kicking chores. Kevin Walker, a junior-college transfer, could become one of the conference's top kick returners.

Keys to success: Temple needs a running game to accompany the passing skills of Burris. A little resistance by the defensive line would be helpful, too.

Outlook: The Owls should improve, but they again look destined to dwell in the basement. The team has a sprinkling of stars, but more depth and strength is needed. It doesn't help that the Owls play in front of the smallest and least enthusiastic fans in the conference.

Coach Ron Dickerson says: "I know the kids believe now that things are different. There's a different attitude among the players. There's a different commitment level. There's a different understanding. They've grown up and they're talented. These kids are bound and determined to win."

OWLS DATA

Coach: Ron Dickerson (3-19, 2 years)

1994 record: 2-9 Big East 0-7/8th

Key losses: Andrew Brown, LB, P.J. Cook, TE, Phil Cox, FS, Adrian Drones, DE, Rich Maston, K, Deandre McClurkin, NT, Sid Morse, FB

Starters returning: **Offense (9):** Marc Baxter, SE, 6-1/190, Sr., Tom Berger, C, 6-3/275, Jr., Ed Bowen, G, 6-2/271, Jr.; Henry Burris, QB, 6-1/175, Jr., Jon Clark, T, 6-6/342, Sr., Juan Gaddy, TB, 5-9/189, Jr., Eric Johnson, T, 6-4/278, Jr.; Van Johnson, FL, 6-1/188, Jr.; John Summerday, G, 6-2/290 Sr. **Defense (7):** Corey Green, SS (may switch to FB), 5-11/216, Jr.; Allan Jackson, CB, 5-10/191, Sr.; Lance Johnstone, LB, 6-3/242, Sr.; Andy Phipps, T, 6-3/294, Jr.; Robert McWilliams, CB, 6-0/173, Sr.; Alshermund Singleton, LB, 6-3/221, Jr.; Tim Terry, E, 6-3/230, Jr. **Kickers (1):** John Shay, P, 6-1/211, Sr.

Other key returnees: Danny Davis, TB, Jr., Jason Davis, DE, Jr.; Troy Kersey, FL, Soph., Tealang Loyd, NG (moved from DE), Jr., Zane Michalski, K, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Gaddy (103 att., 265 yds., 1 TD); Passing: Burris (409 att., 215 comp., 12 INT, 21 TD, 2,716 yds.); Receiving: Johnson (34 rec., 622 yds., 5 TD); Tackler: Johnstone (114); Sackler: Davis, Phipps, Terry (2)

Top newcomers: Willie Brown, LB, Jr. (transfer/Alabama), Drake Epps, CB, Jr. (JC); Tom Gilson, OL, Fr.; Dave Nichols, K, Fr.; Kevin Walker, WR, Jr. (JC).

Site: Philadelphia Stadium: Veterans Stadium (66,592)

Last league title won: None

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Kansas State	Oct. 21 —at East Carolina
Sept. 9 —at West Virginia	Oct. 28 —at Miami
Sept. 16 —at Penn State	Nov. 4 —Boston College
Sept. 30 —Bowling Green	Nov. 11 —Virginia Tech
Oct. 7 —at Syracuse	Nov. 18 —Rutgers
Oct. 14 —Pittsburgh	

David Ramsey covers college sports for the Syracuse (N.Y.) Herald-Journal.



Terrell Willis is the speedy half of Rutgers' potent tailback combination.

SCOUTING THE BIG EAST

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive backfield:	Rutgers
Best wide receivers:	Syracuse
Best offensive line:	Boston College
Best defensive line:	Boston College
Best linebackers:	Miami
Best secondary:	Virginia Tech
Best special teams:	Miami
Hardest hitter:	Ray Lewis, LB, Miami
Best backup quarterback:	Scott Motryn, Boston College
Best pro prospect:	Billy West, TB, Pittsburgh
Best stadium:	Carrier Dome (Syracuse)
Best rivalry:	Boston College-Miami

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. Boston College (Best recruit: WR Anthony DiCosimo). DiCosimo leads a group that could carry the Eagles into the national Top 10 in future seasons. Also keep an eye on RB Jamall Anderson, WR Mike Bullock and DL Michael Wilkins.
2. Miami (WR Magic Benton).
3. Syracuse (QB Rob Konrad).
4. Pittsburgh (QB Darner Dinkins).
5. West Virginia (LB Gary Stills).
6. Rutgers (OL Ivan Ramos).
7. Virginia Tech (RB/LB Shelly Ellison).
8. Temple (WR Kevin Walker).

Biggest shoes to fill: Miami defensive tackle Warren Sapp's. Someone must anchor the Hurricanes' line, though no one on the Miami campus will play the position with the nasty mastery of Sapp, the 1994 Big East Defensive Player of the Year. Miami hopes Marvin Davis and Jason McCullough can hold down the tackle slots.

Most underrated player: Temple linebacker Lance Johnstone. He plays for a lousy team in a city that doesn't give a flip about college football. Johnstone is a wicked hitter who would be a hero in most locales.

Most overrated player: West Virginia cornerback Aaron Beasley. Sure, Beasley led the nation with 10 interceptions, but he gambles too much, which makes him susceptible to getting burned. Make no mistake, Beasley is a fine player. But he must become more consistent if he wants to be known as a great defender.

Best head coach: Don Nehlen, West Virginia. He doesn't labor in a state known for producing great players, so Nehlen must travel far and wide to procure talent. He works in what might be the most challenging environment in the conference, yet he's a consistent winner. "It's not easy," he said.

Best coaching staff: Miami. Linebackers coach Randy Shannon and defensive line boss Rick Petri are skilled at crafting nasty boys.

Coach on the hot seat: Paul Pasqualoni, Syracuse. No one works longer hours than Pasqualoni, but he has failed in recent seasons to motivate his team and has watched assistants flee with alarming regularity. A trip to a bowl is a virtual

requirement this season if Pasqualoni wants to placate Orangemen fans.

Best bets: Pitt tailback Billy West will rush for 1,500 yards. He also will be black and blue by season's end. . . . Miami Coach Butch Davis may be hemming and hawing over who will start at quarterback, but he knows it'll be senior Ryan Collins. . . . Syracuse receiver Marvin Harrison will win a game with a last-second touchdown catch. . . . Miami will shut out more than one team. . . . Davis will witness at least one hip-thrusting, arm-flailing, high-stepping display of celebration by his UM players. . . . Rutgers will score more than 30 points in a game—and lose.

Odds and ends: Syracuse has given its fabled No. 44 to recruit Rob Konrad, a highly touted fullback from Massachusetts. Many in Syracuse believe the number, worn by Jim Brown, Floyd Little and the late Ernie Davis, among others, should be retired. Little doesn't agree. He knew Davis, and he enjoys watching the old number on the field. "It keeps him alive," Little said. "I don't think they ought to ever retire that number." . . . Temple averaged 16,396 fans at home games, which was 25.8 percent of capacity at its host facilities. . . . The Miami coaching job is, according to popular wisdom, a terribly complicated position. After Dennis Erickson left the Hurricanes to coach the Seattle Seahawks, two coaches, Sonny Lubick of Colorado State and Jim Tressel of Division I-AA power Youngstown State, passed on the chance to lead Miami. The perception is that there is too much pressure to win in South Florida. Rutgers Coach Doug Graber wonders about that observation: "I'd rather coach someplace where they expect you to win. That usually means they have good reason for the expectation." . . . After three seasons of Big East football, Temple still is looking for its first league win. The Owls are 0-20. Conversely, Miami has posted a 17-1 Big East mark. The Hurricanes' only loss was at undefeated West Virginia in 1993.

—DAVID RAMSEY

Ascending: Pittsburgh. John Majors won a national title with the Panthers in 1976. He won't win another soon, but he has resuscitated a program that barely had a pulse when he took over before the '93 season. The Panthers should finish over .500, which would be a major triumph.

Descending: Syracuse. After playing in six consecutive bowls from 1987-92, the Orangemen haven't tasted the postseason. It appears the offense has gotten stale and the defense lacks fire.

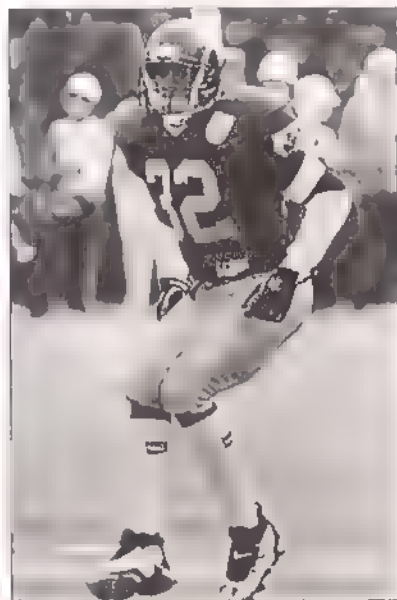
Nightmare schedule: Boston College must think it's a Big Ten school. The Eagles face Ohio State, Michigan, Michigan State and Notre Dame. Whew! **Dream schedule:** West Virginia. Even a few lucky Mountaineers fans may get a chance to play in one of West Virginia's first five games: Purdue, Temple, Maryland, Kent and East Carolina. Only trips to Boston College and Miami should prove formidable.

Best matchup of the year: Miami at Boston College, November 11. The Eagles just may have the firepower—and loud crowd—to overcome the vaunted Hurricanes.

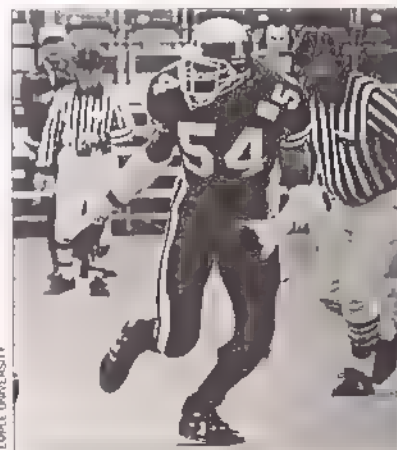
Worst matchup of the year: Kent at West Virginia, September 23. The Mountaineers would be frightened if it was Clark Kent visiting Morgantown. But it's only the lowly Golden Flashes from the woebegone Mid-American Conference.

Shocker of the year: Temple over Rutgers, November 18. The Owls' passing game will . . . uh . . . run wild on the Scarlet Knights' weak secondary. Only a few thousand fans figure to be on hand to watch this upset in Veterans Stadium, but they'll see a nice show.

Bowl bound: Miami, Boston College, West Virginia, Virginia Tech. But don't rule out any team—except Temple.



West Virginia cornerback Aaron Beasley gambles too much to be considered great.



Temple linebacker Lance Johnstone would be a hero in another locale.

1. TEXAS A&M

Offensive strengths: Tailback Leeland McElroy has 4.27 speed and no equal as a running back/kickoff returner. This season, he may return punts, too. Tackle Hunter Goodwin and guard Calvin Collins are great pile-drivers, and tight end Hayward Clay has unlimited potential.

Offensive weaknesses: The Aggies long have lacked a go-to receiver with speed—and still do. The lack of a proven center makes the line, weak last season, suspect again.

Defensive strengths: Brandon Mitchell is a terror at end and a legitimate candidate for the Outland and Lombardi awards. The Aggies have speedy linebackers galore, led by Reggie Brown and newcomer Jimmy Irby, who had 27 sacks in two years in junior college. The secondary, small but experienced, is the league's best.

Defensive weaknesses: Except for Mitchell, the front line is workmanlike. The new starter at strong safety, Typail McMullen, could be the weak link.

Special teams: Kyle Bryant, a boomer as a freshman last season, kicked a 61-yard field goal (the second-longest in NCAA history without a tee) and 17 of 25 overall. Recruit Shane Leckler should press inconsistent Sean Terry at punter. McElroy is one of the best return men in the country.

Keys to success: With the offensive line still developing and little proven depth at running back, quarterback Corey Pullig has to step up and make more big plays. A few cracks in the defensive front have to be repaired.

Outlook: Only a tie against one-win SMU kept the Aggies from having a spotless season last year. Still, they finished undefeated for the first time in 38 years and haven't lost a conference game since 1990. A&M needs a quick pick-me-up from its offensive line (it rehired former line coach Mike Sherman away from UCLA to get one), but a soft schedule should help the Aggies' chances in their pursuit of the national title.

Coach R.C. Slocum says: "I feel like we're a better team than at this time a year ago, and I feel our potential is better than a year ago. In looking a year ago, we had areas we were not very good and were not going to be very good. But I can't think of any spot where we'd be weaker."

ARRIVED DATA

Coach: R.C. Slocum (58-12-2, 6 years)

1994 record: 10-0-1. SWC 6-0-1 (ineligible for league title)

Key losses: Antonio Armstrong, LB, Reggie Graham, LB, Cliff Groce, FB, Michael Hendricks, SS, Larry Jackson, DE, Jeff Jones, OT, James McKeehan, TE, Brian Mitchell, FL, John Richard, G, Rodney Thomas, TB, Brandon Ward, C.

Starters returning: Offense (4): Calvin Collins, G, 6-3/285, Jr.; Hunter Goodwin, T, 6-5/263, Sr.; Corey Pullig, QB, 6-3/199, Sr.; Chris Sanders, SE, 6-4/213, Sr. Defense (7):

Dennis Allen, FS, 6-2/184, Sr.; Reggie Brown, LB, 6-2/224, Sr.; Donovan Greer, CB, 5-10/164, Jr.; Edward Jasper, NG, 6-4/276, Jr.; Ray Mickens, CB, 5-8/172, Sr.; Brandon Mitchell, E, 6-4/270, Jr.; Larry Walker II, LB, 6-2/200, Jr. Kickers (2):

Kyle Bryant, K, 5-7/180, Soph.; Sean Terry, P, 6-2/232, Sr.

Other key returnees: Hayward Clay, TE, Sr.; Trent Driver, LB, Soph.; Kolby Hackrad, C, (moved from G) Soph.; David Maxwell, DE, Soph.; Leeland McElroy, TB/KR, Jr.; Steve McKinney, G (moved from DE), Soph.; Typail McMullen, S, Jr.; Philip Meyers, LB, Soph.; Keith Mitchell, LB, Jr.; Chris Ruhman, OT, Soph.; Deiron Smith, FB, Sr.; Andre Williams, CB, Jr.; Sherrod Wyatt, S, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: McElroy (130 att., 707 yds., 9 TD); Passing: Pullig (269 att., 161 comp., 7 INT, 13 TD, 2,056 yds.); Receiving: Sanders (22 rec., 422 yds., 4 TD); Tackler: Walker (69); Sackler: Mitchell (9).

Top newcomers: Albert Connell, WR, Jr. (JC); Jimmy Irby, LB, Jr. (JC); Shane Leckler, P, Fr.; Justin Lucas, WR, Fr. (RS); Dai Nguyen, LB, Fr. (RS); Aaron Oliver, WR, Fr. (RS); Zenek Rollins, DE, Soph. (transfer/Oklahoma); David Vazquez, C, Fr. (RS).

SOUTHWEST

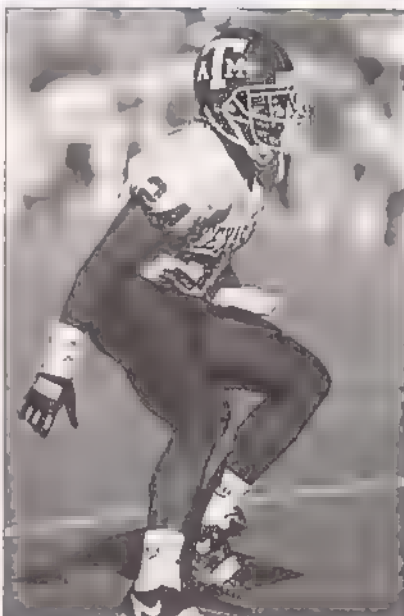
Conference Rank: 7

By KIRK BOHLS

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. TEXAS A&M
2. TEXAS
3. TEXAS TECH
4. TEXAS CHRISTIAN
5. BAYLOR
6. RICE
7. SOUTHERN METHODIST
8. HOUSTON



The Texas A&M secondary, which features cornerback Ray Mickens, is small but good.

Site: College Station, Texas. Stadium: Kyle Field (70,210)
Last league title won: 1993.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Louisiana State	Oct. 26 —Houston
Sept. 16 —Tulsa	Nov. 9 —at Rice
Sept. 23 —at Colorado	Nov. 18 —Mid-Tennessee St.
Oct. 7 —at Texas Tech	Nov. 25 —at Texas Christian
Oct. 14 —Southern Methodist	Dec. 2 —Texas
Oct. 21 —at Baylor	

2. TEXAS

Offensive strengths: Texas feels good with sophomore quarterback James Brown, who has the quickest release and maybe the quickest feet in the SWC. He won his final (and only) four starts last season. The move of Dan Neil from center to guard and John Elmore from guard to left tackle has strengthened what could be one of the league's best lines.

Offensive weaknesses: Sun Bowl MVP Priest Holmes sustained a severe knee injury in the spring, which will cost Texas the talented running back's services for at least half the season. With Holmes out, the position is in the hands of talented but unproven newcomers. The top two receivers from 1994 are gone, too, and two outstanding pass catchers—Mike Adams and Justin McElmore—weren't available in the spring because of academics and knee rehab, respectively.

Defensive strengths: Tony Brackens is one of the premier pass rushers in the nation. He'll lead a vastly improved front that includes the massive Chris Akins and Stonie Clark. Bryant Westbrook is the best cornerback you've never heard of.

Defensive weaknesses: There are no standout linebackers, once a Longhorns strength, and free safety Chris Carter regressed after a terrific freshman season in 1993. Strong safety Tre Thomas has forgotten how to tackle.

Special teams: One would be hard-pressed to find a better kicking game than Texas' trio of kicker Phil Dawson, punter Duane Vacek and dangerous kick returner Adams. The strong-legged Dawson missed only five of 19 field-goal attempts as a freshman, and Vacek averaged 40.2 yards a punt.

Keys to success: "Help Wanted" signs have to be taken down by freshmen and transfers at running back and linebacker for Texas to improve upon last year's success.

Outlook: Texas desperately needs to upgrade its defense if it wants to build upon last year's 8-4 record and its first national ranking at season's end since 1990. The schedule includes only five teams with winning records, but two of them—Notre Dame and Texas A&M—are on the road.

Coach John Mackovic says: "In today's wide-open offensive game, you have to be strong up the middle. We have excellent quarterbacks, solid centers and a group of experienced running backs. I think this year we will be the best we've been in our four seasons in that area. On defense, Tony Brackens will be one of the top players in the nation at his position."

LONGHORN DATA

Coach: John Mackovic (19-14-1, 3 years; 63-50-2 overall, 10 years)

1994 record: 8-4 (beat North Carolina in Sun Bowl) SWC 4-3/1st

Key losses: Thomas Baskin, DT, Blake Brockmeyer, OT (declared for NFL draft); Joey Ellis, CB, Eric Jackson, WR, Joe Phillips, OT; Lovell Pinney, WR (declared for NFL draft); Rodrick Walker, RB; Norman Walkuns, LB.

Starters returning: Offense (6): Steve Bradley, TE, 6-3/232, Jr.; Corby Brooks, G, 6-4/267, Sr.; James Brown, QB, 6-0/190, Soph.; John Elmore, T (moved from G), 6-3/285, Sr. Priest Holmes, RB, 5-10/200, Sr. (was injured during spring); Dan Neil, G (moved from C), 6-2/282, Jr. Defense (8): Chris Akins, NG, 6-1/289, Soph.; Tony Brackens, E, 6-4/240, Jr.; Chris Carter, FS, 6-1/194, Jr.; Tyson King, LB, 6-0/223, Jr.; Robert Reed, LB, 6-2/220, Sr.; Kyle Richardson, LB, 6-0/220, Soph.; Tre Thomas, SS, 6-1/210, Jr.; Bryant Westbrook, CB, 6-0/192, Jr. Kickers (2): Phil Dawson, K, 5-11/191, Soph.; Duane Vacek, P, 6-3/240, Sr.

Other key returnees: Mike Adams, WR, Jr. (RS/knee); Stonie Clark, NG, Sr.; Pat Fitzgerald, TE, Jr.; Curtis Jackson, WR, Sr.; Justin McElmore, WR, Sr. (RS/knee); Shea Morenz, QB, Jr.; Jason Reeves, LB, Sr.; Darrell Wilson, RB, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Holmes (120 att., 524 yds., 5 TD); Passing: Brown (115 att., 80 comp., 2 INT, 12 TD, 1,047 yds.); Receiving: Jackson (27 rec., 401 yds., 2 TD); Tackler: Brackens (90); Sackler: Brackens (47).

Top newcomers: Octavious Bishop, OT, Fr. (RS); Ricky Brown, RB, Fr.; Chris Butcher, RB, Fr.; Jeffrey Clayton, RB



TEXAS TECH

Thanks to players such as tailback Byron Hanspard, Texas Tech should be able to score.

Jr. (JC) Russell Gaskamp, C, Fr. (RS); Matt Jones, LB, Jr. (JC); Clarence Martin, DT, Fr.; Wane McGarity, WR, Fr. (RS/knee); Ricky Williams, RB, Fr.; Bryan White, WR, Fr. Site: Austin, Texas. Stadium: Memorial Stadium (77,609). Last league title won: 1994 (tie).

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Hawaii	Oct. 21 —Virginia
Sept. 16 —Pittsburgh	Nov. 4 —Texas Tech
Sept. 23 —at Notre Dame	Nov. 11 —at Houston
Sept. 30 —at Southern Methodist	Nov. 18 —Texas Christian
Oct. 7 —Rice	Nov. 23 —Baylor
Oct. 14 —Oklahoma (at Dallas)	Dec. 2 —at Texas A&M

3. TEXAS TECH

Offensive strengths: With 92 percent of last year's offense back, including consensus league newcomer of the year Zebbie Lethridge at quarterback and Byron Hanspard at tailback, Tech should be able to score. Lethridge might even use the shotgun. The team's top seven receivers also return, giving Lethridge a plethora of competent targets to throw to.

Offensive weaknesses: There's nothing special about a fairly inexperienced offensive line, which is not particularly big, either. Tight end Jerod Fiebigger had a strong spring, but he had only six catches as a reserve last season and must prove himself.

Defensive strengths: Few teams have the overall depth, talent and experience at line-backer that Tech has in Zach Thomas (a first-team All-America in some circles last season), Shawn Banks and Robert Johnson. Safety Marcus Coleman plays like a line-backer. Reserve end Tony Daniels has a knack for making tackles behind the line of scrimmage.

Defensive weaknesses: The secondary, toasted by USC in the Cotton Bowl, must be rebuilt. So must the defensive line. Tech is so desperate it moved fast but small line-backer Anthony Armour to the line.

Special teams: The Red Raiders have one of the best tandems in the league in punter Brad Cade and kicker Tony Rogers. Cade had only 21 of his 72 punts returned (for a total of 80 yards) and led the league in net punting. Rogers was five of six from 40 yards or longer on field goals, missing only from 56 yards.

Keys to success: Both lines lack experience,

and must develop quickly if Tech hopes to defend its share of the SWC title.

Outlook: A schedule that opens with a game at Penn State (which replaces football dropout Cal State Fullerton) might make Texas Tech think it's back at the Cotton Bowl, where it was decimated by USC. But six of the next 10 opponents had losing records in 1994, giving the Red Raiders hope for a repeat share of the league title. Only one of their final five games, however, is at home. **Coach Spike Dykes says:** "We'll be a mysterious team. We had a great year last year. I don't mean there were many happy people walking down the Cotton Bowl, but now we can talk about winning a conference championship and it's not a myth. It's a possibility."

RED RAIDERS DATA

Coach: Spike Dykes (47-44-1, 8 years).

1994 record: 6-6 (lost to Southern California in Cotton Bowl)

SWC: 4-3/T1st.

Key losses: Cal Adams, CB; Scott Aylor, TE; Alton Crain, TB; Jon Davis, K; Scott Fitzgerald, C; Chris Ori, NT; Robert Rivera, G; Bart Thomas, FS; Jabbar Thomas, DE; Damon Wickware, DT; Jeff Wood, OT; Byron Wright, DE

Starters returning: **Offense (6):** Sheldon Bass, SE, 5-10/170, Soph.; Casey Jones, G, 6-5/273, Jr.; Ben Kaufman, T, 6-5/286, Jr.; Zebbie Lethridge, QB, 6-0/188, Soph.; Stacy Mitchell, FB, 5-5/150, Soph.; Todd Walker, FB, 6-0/211, Sr.

Defense (5): Shawn Banks, LB, 6-2/224, Sr.; Marcus Coleman, S, 6-2/201, Sr.; Shawn Hurd, CB, 5-8/171, Sr.; Robert Johnson, LB, 5-11/186, Jr.; Zach Thomas, LB, 6-0/233, Sr.

Kickers (1): Brad Cade, P, 6-2/174, Sr.

Other key returnees: Anthony Armour, DL (moved from LB), Jr. (RS/injury); Tony Daniels, DE, Jr.; Tony Darden, QB/WR, Soph.; Jerod Fiebigger, TE, Sr.; Byron Hanspard, TB, Soph.; Dane Johnson, FS, Soph.; Jerome Lang, LB, Soph. (RS/academics); Tony Rogers, K, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Hanspard (173 att., 761 yds., 5 TD); Passing: Lethridge (267 att., 132 comp., 6 INT, 12 TD, 1,596 yds.); Receiving: Bass (34 rec., 400 yds., 2 TD); Tackles: Thomas (116); Sacks: Thomas (3.5)

Top newcomers: Jayson Hansen, OT, Jr. (JC); Kenny Haywood, CB, Jr. (JC); Elgin Johnson, DE, Jr. (JC); Carl Marshall, CB, Jr. (JC)

Site: Lubbock, Texas. **Stadium:** Jones Stadium (50,500)

Last league title won: 1994 (tie).

SCHEDULE

Sept. 9 —at Penn State	Oct. 28 —at New Mexico
Sept. 16 —Missouri	Nov. 4 —at Texas
Sept. 30 —at Baylor	Nov. 11 —Texas Christian
Oct. 7 —Texas A&M	Nov. 18 —at So. Methodist
Oct. 14 —Arkansas State	Nov. 25 —at Houston
Oct. 21 —Rice	

4. TEXAS CHRISTIAN

Offensive strengths: No other team in the league can boast of having both SWC co-Offensive Players of the Year. Andre Davis is a shifty, versatile tailback (47 catches in addition to 1,494 rushing yards), and Max Knake is an accurate quarterback (only seven interceptions in 316 passing attempts). The sure-handed Brian Collins, coming off ankle surgery, may be the nation's top tight end, and the receiving corps is full of great targets.

Offensive weaknesses: A completely depleted line first must master the snap count, then work on gaining experience and mental toughness, especially on the right side.

Defensive strengths: Better, faster athletes up front should put more heat on opposing quarterbacks. Linebacker Lenoy Jones makes a jillion tackles, and outside linebacker Geoff Stephens, converted from strong safety, can cover running backs on pass routes.

Defensive weaknesses: Undersized line-backers and a reliance on zone coverage in the secondary makes TCU vulnerable to



JAMES SMITH

Texas Christian's Brian Collins may be the nation's top tight end.

ball-control offenses.

Special teams: These units return intact, including deep snapper Ashby Porter. Kicker Michael Reeder was successful on 11 of 15 field-goal attempts. Beau Stephens had two punts blocked last year.

Keys to success: Unless the offensive line matures quickly, the Frogs' vast experience at the skill positions could be wasted.

Outlook: TCU has a good chance of following up its first bowl season in 10 years with back-to-back postseason games for the first time since 1958-59. Concern over an expensive buyout of his contract kept Coach Pat Sullivan from moving to LSU, but TCU gave him a new five-year contract. The Frogs should profit from a weak non-conference schedule in their bid to contend for the last SWC title.

Coach Pat Sullivan says: "We're not where I want to be, but from where we started and where we are in all areas—facilities, attitude, all the things you don't see—we are so much better. We've got more athletes and better athletes. We're not very deep yet, but if we can get off to a good start and gain confidence and get some momentum, we have a chance."

HORNED FROGS DATA

Coach: Pat Sullivan (12-20-2, 3 years)

1994 record: 7-5 (lost to Virginia in Independence Bowl)

SWC: 4-3/T1st.

Key losses: Reggie Anderson, LB; Brian Brooks, NT; Aaron Burton, DT; Bart Epperson, G; Boyd Milby, G; Michael Moulton, LB; Barret Robbins, C; Jimmy Oliver, FB; Vincent Pryor, LB; Royce West, DT

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Chris Brasfield, FB, 6-1/185, Sr.; Brian Collins, TE, 6-5/226, Sr.; Andre Davis, TB, 6-0/185, Sr.; Max Knake, QB, 6-1/195, Jr.; Ryan Tucker, T, 6-5/285, Jr.; John Washington, WR, 5-11/158, Jr.; Kai Woods, FB, 6-0/227, Jr.

Defense (10): Tony Brown, LB, 6-2/210, Jr.; Jay Davern, LB, 6-1/220, Jr.; Manuel Hopes, FS, 5-10/180, Sr.; Gaylon Hyder, T, 6-6/280, Jr.; Lenoy Jones, LB, 6-3/218, Sr.; Mikyha Martin, DB, 5-11/180, Sr.; Chuckie McWilliams, CB, 6-0/175, Sr.; Chris Pineda, E, 6-4/218, Sr.; Tyrone Roy, LB, 6-2/240, Sr.; Hayes Rydel, E, 6-2/240, Sr.

Kickers (2): Michael Reeder, K, 6-0/182, Soph.; Beau Stephens, P, 5-10/172, Sr.

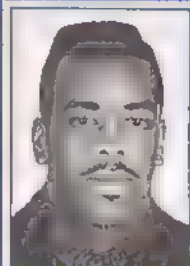
Other key returnees: Clifford Barnes, OT, Sr.; Kevin Brewer, C, Sr.; Derrick Cullors, FL, Sr.; Kevin Holmes, G, Sr.; Rick LaFavers, SS, Sr.; Ashby Porter, DB, Jr.; Geoff Stephens, LB (moved from SS), Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Davis (260 att.

Continued

PRESEASON ALL-SOUTHWEST TEAM

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE

LEELAND McELROY
TB Texas A&M



DEFENSE

BRANDON MITCHELL
E Texas A&M

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE: Ricky Williams, RB, Texas

DEFENSE: Jimmy Iyob, LB, Texas A&M

COACH OF THE YEAR

R.C. Stocum, Texas A&M

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	MIKE ADAMS, Texas	6-1/182	Jr
WR	JAMES WHITMORE, SMU	5-9/170	Sr
TE	BRIAN COLLINS, Texas Christian	6-5/225	Sr
T	JOHN ELMORE, Texas	6-3/285	Sr
T	JIMMY HERNDON, Houston	6-8/280	Sr
G	DANIEL L. Texas	6-2/282	Jr
G	CALVIN COLLINS, Texas A&M	6-3/285	Jr
C	BRANNON K. DD, SMU	6-4/295	Jr
QB	MAX KNAKE, Texas Christian	6-1/195	Jr
RB	LEELAND McELROY, Texas A&M	5-11/202	Jr
RB	ANDRE DAVIS, Texas Christian	5-9/185	Sr

DEFENSE

E	BRANDON MITCHELL, Tex A&M	6-4/270	Jr
NG	CHRIS AKINS, Texas	6-1/289	Soph
E	TONY BRACKENS, Texas	6-4/240	Jr
LB	ZACH THOMAS, Texas Tech	6-0/233	Sr
LB	REGGIE BROWN, Texas A&M	6-2/224	Sr
LB	JIMMY IRBY, Texas A&M	6-2/225	Jr
LB	LARRY IZZO, Rice	6-0/210	Sr
CB	BRYANT WESTBROOK, Texas	6-0/192	Jr
CB	RAY MCKENS, Texas A&M	5-8/172	Sr
S	MARCUS COLEMAN, Texas Tech	6-2/201	Sr
S	ADRIAN ROBINSON, Baylor	6-2/210	Sr

SPECIALISTS

K	PHIL DAWSON, Texas	5-11/191	Soph
P	DUANE JACEK, Texas	6-3/240	Sr
KR	LEELAND McELROY, Texas A&M	5-11/202	Jr

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	ALBERT CORNELL, Texas A&M	6-2/180	Jr
WR	STACY MITCHELL, Texas Tech	5-5/150	Soph
TE	PAT FITZGERALD, Texas	6-2/212	Jr
T	FRED MILLER, Baylor	6-7/294	Sr
T	CHRIS RUHMAN, Texas A&M	6-6/290	Soph
G	CHRIS COOLEY, Rice	6-5/290	Sr
G	KEITH CHILES, SMU	5-11/320	Jr
C	BEN FRISKE, Houston	6-2/275	Soph
QB	RAYMOND FLAMMANG, SMU	6-2/175	Jr
RB	BYRON HANSPARD, Texas Tech	6-0/180	Soph
RB	JEROD DOUGLAS, Baylor	5-9/167	Soph

DEFENSE

E	TONY DANIELS, Texas Tech	6-5/245	Jr
T	GAYLON HYDER, Texas Christian	6-6/280	Jr
E	DARYL GARDENER, Baylor	6-7/315	Sr
LB	ROBERT REED, Texas	6-2/220	Sr
LB	CHRIS BORDANO, SMU	6-2/220	Jr
LB	LENOY JONES, Texas Christian	6-3/218	Sr
LB	LaCURTIS JONES, Baylor	6-0/200	Sr
CB	DONOVAN GREER, Texas A&M	5-10/164	Jr
CB	CORNELL PARKER, SMU	5-11/195	Sr
S	GEROME WILLIAMS, Houston	6-0/195	Sr
S	CHRIS CARTER, Texas	6-1/184	Jr

SPECIALISTS

K	KYLE BRYANT, Texas A&M	5-7/180	Soph
P	BEAU STEPHENS, TCU	5-10/172	Sr
KR	SPENCER GEORGE, Rice	5-11/200	Jr

1,494 yds., 7 TD). Passing: Knaake (316 att., 184 comp., 7 INT, 24 TD, 2,624 yds.) Receiving: Collins (32 rec., 369 yds., 7 TD); Tackler: Jones (77); Sackler: Rydel (3).
Top newcomers: Sterling Boyd, RB, Jr. (transfer/Georgia), Greg Davis, C, Fr. (RS), Kam Hunt, LB, Fr.; Daryl Johnson, DE, Fr. (RS), J.P. McFarland, G/C, Fr. (RS), Bernard Oham, DT, Jr. (JC), Dana Robinson, CB, Fr. (RS), James Smith, NG, Fr. (RS), Fabian Stegall, G, Jr. (transfer/Georgia), Jason Tucker, FL, Fr. (RS), John Williams, FB, Fr.
Site: Fort Worth, Texas. **Stadium:** Amon G. Carter (46,000)
Last league title won: 1994 (be)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 9 —at Iowa State	Oct. 28 —at Baylor
Sept. 14 —at Kansas	Nov. 4 —So. Methodist
Sept. 23 —at Vanderbilt	Nov. 11 —at Texas Tech
Oct. 7 —Houston	Nov. 18 —at Texas
Oct. 14 —at Rice	Nov. 25 —Texas A&M
Oct. 21 —Tulane	

5. BAYLOR

Offensive strengths: Baylor has the best group of running backs in the league in Jerod Douglas, Anthony Hodge and Kalief Muhammad. Fred Miller is one of the best tackles around, and the Bears' huge line should be able to mash people and spark the running game.

Offensive weaknesses: When squatly quarterback Jeff Watson was good as a true freshman last year, he was very good, but when he was bad, Baylor lost. And there is no backup. Dustin Dennard has terrific hands, but the Bears' three top split ends have a combined 29 career catches. The tight ends aren't even that experienced—the top four candidates have one reception.

Defensive strengths: Mountainous bookends Daryl Gardener and Donnie Embra and speedy linebacker LaCurtis Jones are potential all-stars who will lead a defensive unit that should be more aggressive and blitz more often. Strong safety Adrian

Robinson has seven career interceptions and is being touted as an All-America candidate.

Defensive weaknesses: Only 11 Division I-A teams were burned for more passing touchdowns than Baylor, which yielded 20. The secondary has good athletes in Robinson and Nikia Codie but couldn't cover anyone in a weak zone last season.

Special teams: Ty Atteberry dropped 14 punts inside the opponents' 20 and had a very solid 39.9-yard net average. Jarvis Van Dyke never misses an extra point (he's hit his past 80) but he has poor range on field goals. He could get replaced by a freshman. **Keys to success:** Watson must improve his accuracy—assuming someone will be able to catch the ball if he is on target—and stay healthy. Baylor must shore up its weak pass defense, too.

Outlook: The Bad News Bears defense became the Early News Bears in the off-season, arising at 5 a.m. for workouts. A solid work ethic and a renovated pass offense with more bootlegs and rollouts and pass defense with tighter man-to-man coverage will be essential for a team that faces six bowl teams, including Miami and North Carolina State on the road.

Coach Chuck Reedy says: "We've got more team speed, and we'll be a better team than we were a year ago, maybe in every area. I don't think there's any question about it, but then it's all relative to who you're playing. A lot of it will hinge on getting off to a good start."

NAME MAIL

Coach: Chuck Reedy (12-11, 2 years)
1994 record: 7-5 (lost to Washington State in Alamo Bowl)
SWC: 4-3/T1st
Key losses: Kendrick Bell, CB, Ben Bronson, WR, Will

Davidson, G, Marty Dunbar, C; Bradford Lewis, FB, Chris Lewis, FS, Scotty Lewis, DE, Tony Tubbs, LB.

Starters returning: **Offense** (6): David Davis, T, 6-4/300, Jr.; Dustin Dennard, WR, 6-4/197, Sr.; Bradley Domet, TE, 6-4/218 Soph.; Michael Johnson, G, 6-3/308, Soph.; Fred Miller, T, 6-7/294, Sr.; Jeff Watson, QB, 6-0/205, Soph. **Defense** (7): Gary Bandy, LB, 6-2/229, Sr.; Charles Horton, E, 6-3/282, Sr.; LaCurtis Jones, LB, 6-0/200, Sr.; Phillip Kent, LB, 6-2/223, Sr.; Rodenck Kinney, NT, 6-2/276, Soph.; Adrian Robinson, SS, 6-2/210, Sr.; Tyrone Smith, CB, 5-10/173, Sr. **Kickers** (2): Ty Atteberry, P, 6-0/196, Jr.; Jarvis Van Dyke, K, 5-9/158, Sr.

Other key returnees: Nikia Codie, FS, Soph.; Jerod Douglas, TB, Soph.; Daryl Gardener, DE, Sr.; Anthony Hodge, RB, Soph.; Jerome Jackson, G, Soph.; Robert Mason, LB, Jr.; Kalief Muhammad, RB, Jr.; Pearce Pegross, SE, Soph. (RS/academics)

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Muhammad (97 att, 529 yds, 3 TD); Passing: Watson (172 att, 88 comp., 7 INT, 9 TD, 1,435 yds.); Receiving: Dennard (15 rec, 251 yds., 1 TD); Tackler: Jones (111); Sackler: Gardener (5)

Top newcomers: Clarence Cruise, LB, Fr. (RS); Donnie Embra, DE, Jr. (JC)

Site: Waco, Texas. **Stadium:** Floyd Casey (50,000)
Last league title won: 1994 (be)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Tulsa	Oct. 28 —Texas Christian
Sept. 16 —Mississippi State	Nov. 4 —at Miami (Fla.)
Sept. 23 —at North Carolina St.	Nov. 11 —at So. Methodist
Sept. 30 —Texas Tech	Nov. 18 —Rice
Oct. 14 —at Houston	Nov. 23 —at Texas
Oct. 21 —Texas A&M	

B. RICE

Offensive strengths: Chris Cooley is one of the league's best guards, and 6-foot-1, 285-pound walk-on guard Charles Torello drew raves in the spring. Quarterback Josh LaRocca is a stronger runner now, and backup Chad Nelson's passing has improved. Spencer George and Yoncy Edmonds form a strong 1-2 tandem at running back.

Offensive weaknesses: Rice's receivers dropped far too many passes in a weak aerial attack a year ago, and the holdovers and

three recruits will need to be more consistent. Thad Bridges, an all-state receiver from Mississippi, could help. The loss of Adam Zylman to spring knee surgery was costly because the Owls are searching for three quality tight ends.

Defensive strengths: There isn't a tougher player in America than inside linebacker Larry Izzo or a surer tackler than linebacker Joe Davis. Pass-rushing end Ndukwe Kalu is a rising star, and speedy cornerback Warrick Franklin can run down any receiver.

Defensive weaknesses: Rice still isn't as beefy or physical up front as it needs to be against teams that like to mash. The secondary doesn't come up with many turnovers, either (only five interceptions last year).

Special teams: Tucker Phillips had a good punting average and showed a great vertical leap on high snaps. Matt Huelsman, a strong-legged walk-on, was too inconsistent. He kicked four field goals against TCU but missed three in a big game against Baylor.

Keys to success: Rice must develop more surehanded receivers and find several tight ends to strengthen a passing game that ranked 105th nationally last season. The kicking game also must improve if the Owls are to contend for a bowl game.

Outlook: Five of Rice's six losses last season were by nine points or fewer. But thanks to their attacking defense and solid running attack, the Owls still managed to tie for the league title. The defense and running game should be strong again, but the Owls will have to be mentally tough to survive a midseason swing in which they play five of six games on the road.

Coach Ken Hatfield says: "We're still not as big as other people. The middle part of our schedule is a real bugaboo, but to win a championship, you've got to win a big one on the road. We could have won every game last year. But our loss to TCU (27-25) showed we weren't better than anybody. We have to play near-perfect all the time. The biggest thing is the kids believe they can win every game."

COACH DATA

Coach. Ken Hatfield (5-8, 1 year; 119-67-3 overall, 16 years)

1994 record: 5-6, SWC: 4-3/T1st.

Key losses: Byron Coston, RB, Bobby Gray, G; Ed Howard, SE; Jimmy Lee, RB; Denc Rutherford, DE; Emmett Waldron, LB.
Starters returning: **Offense** (7): Adrayll Askew, TE, 6-3/240, Sr.; Chris Cooley, G, 6-5/290, Sr.; Spencer George, FB/KR, 5-11/200, Jr.; Josh LaRocca, QB, 6-1/200, Sr.; Eric Ober, T, 6-3/265, Sr.; Jeremy Thigpen, C, 6-1/275, Jr.; Richard Williams, T, 6-5/260, Soph. **Defense** (9): Joe Davis, LB, 6-1/200, Sr.; Bobby Dixon, CB, 6-0/175, Sr.; Warrick Franklin, CB, 5-10/175, Jr.; Brynton Goynes, T, 6-4/270, Sr.; Larry Izzo, LB, 6-0/210, Sr.; Ndukwe Kalu, E, 6-4/220, Jr.; Jeff Sowell, S, 5-10/175, Sr.; Aaron Stanley, S, 6-1/195, Jr.; Larry Thompson, NG, 5-8/255, Soph. **Kickers** (2): Matt Huelsman, K, 6-0/190, Soph.; Tucker Phillips, P, 6-0/205, Jr.
Other key returnees: Emerson Allen, WR, Sr.; Kns Armstrong, WR, Jr.; Everett Burton, OT, Sr.; Pat Callahan, RB, Sr.; Andy Clifton, DE, Soph.; Yancy Edmonds, RB, Sr.; Brian Lyssy, OT, Jr.; Chad Nelson, QB, Soph.; Arthur Terry, DE, Jr.; Jeff Venghaus, WR, Soph.; Jason Winship, DT, Jr.; Adam Zylman, TE, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: George (165 att., 804 yds., 4 TD); Passing: LaRocca (130 att., 65 comp., 8 INT, 9 TD, 806 yds.); Receiving: George (14 rec., 132 yds., 2 TD); Tackler: Davis (113); Sacker: Kalu (8).

Top newcomers: Thad Bridges, WR/DB, Fr.; Michael Perry, RB/DB, Fr.; Raphael Tillman, QB, Fr.; Charles Torello, G, Fr.; Donell Victorian, LB, Fr.

Site: Houston. **Stadium:** Rice Stadium (70,000)

Last league title won: 1994 (tie)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —UNLV	Oct. 21 —at Texas Tech
Sept. 16 —Tulane	Oct. 28 —at So. Methodist
Sept. 23 —at Louisiana State	Nov. 9 —Texas A&M
Sept. 30 —at Army	Nov. 18 —at Baylor
Oct. 7 —at Texas	Dec. 2 —Houston
Oct. 14 —Texas Christian	

7. SOUTHERN METHODIST

Offensive strengths: The shifty, quick-throwing Ramon Flanigan is SMU's answer to Charlie Ward, but he needs to stay healthy. He could be the league's most versatile and dangerous quarterback. Brannon Kidd might be the SWC's top center. The very underrated and quick Dante Womack, who could flourish in a part-time, two-back scheme, heads an improving running attack. **Offensive weaknesses:** Flanigan will be on the run more than Harrison Ford in *The Fugitive*. (The Mustangs' offensive line gave up 44 sacks last year.) There are few proven receivers, a position freshmen may have to fill.

Defensive strengths: Behind middle line-

Continued

BURNING QUESTION

Can A&M finally win the national title?

Texas A&M is one of the five winningest football programs in the nation during the 1990s, but the other four have something the Aggies don't—a national championship. Florida State, Miami, Alabama and Nebraska have won national titles this decade, but for Texas A&M, the drought has been a bit longer.

Try 1939.

In each of the past four years, legitimate Aggie title hopes have been derailed. Last year, a tie with lowly SMU kept A&M from a perfect season, albeit one without a bowl game because of probation. In the three seasons before that, the Aggies ended with a Cotton Bowl loss: to Notre Dame in 1991 and '92 and Florida State in '93. Regular-season losses to Tulsa (1991) and Oklahoma (1993) are the only other blemishes on the A&M slate.

With seven starters back on defense and four on offense in 1995, the Aggies should be in the title hunt again.

"I think that makes a positive statement about our program," Coach R.C. Slocum said. "One of our stated objectives is to reach a point where year in and year out, when they're talking about teams with a chance to be good, we're included in that list."

A&M's hopes for a title are buoyed by a sensational recruiting class. Among the returnees, Corey Pullig is a veteran starter at quarterback, defensive end Brandon Mitchell is a Lombardi and Outland trophy candidate, and the linebackers, according to Slocum, "could be the best group we've had."

A national championship in the final year of the SWC would be appropriate for a league that has not produced a national champion in 25 years (Texas in the 1970 coaches poll).

"A&M doesn't have any bad players. They've got so darn much depth," Texas Tech Coach Spike Dykes said.

The Aggies are hungry for exposure after their one-year TV ban, and they may benefit from the bowl alliance, which this year assures the SWC champion of a spot in the Fiesta, Sugar or Orange bowls.

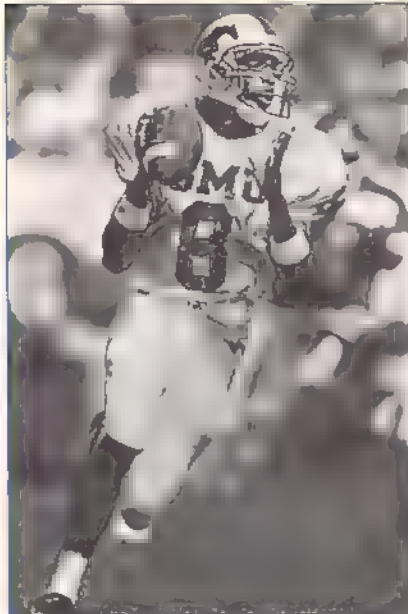
"I think it's more realistic probably to talk about," Slocum said of winning the title. "If we can go through this season undefeated and start from the top five, we're going to have a shot to be in the hunt."

"But I recognize how difficult it is. You can have a great team and do everything right, as Penn State pointed out, and still not be national champs. Then, it's in the hands of fate or luck or breaks."

—KIRK BOHLS



One of Rice's chief defensive weapons is Ndukwe Kalu, a pass-rushing end who is a rising star.



The shifty, quick-throwing Ramon Flanigan is SMU's answer to Charlie Ward.

backer Chris Bordano, who had 111 tackles, the Mustangs forced turnovers at a nation's fourth-best clip (1.18 per game) last season. Jason Evans could develop into a top tackle in a better front, and cornerback Cornell Parker is around the ball more than a center.

Defensive weaknesses: Bordano, Evans and Parker missed spring practice because of injuries or academics, leaving their return in doubt. If Bordano doesn't come back from his back injury, this team doesn't have an impact player on defense. The numbers in the secondary are razor thin.

Special teams: SMU needs to find a deep snapper and much more consistency from punter Anthony Scotti and kicker Ben Crosland, who missed a last-minute field goal that could have beaten Texas A&M. He missed nine of 15 field-goal attempts.

Keys to success: The Mustangs need to get some of those turnovers in positive territory and develop some reliable wide receivers to help out a suspect defense.

Outlook: SMU lost to four ranked teams last season (two by seven points or fewer) and must face six '94 bowl clubs. It also must go to Texas A&M, which couldn't play in a bowl game because of probation. The hope borne in a shocking 21-21 tie against the seventh-ranked Aggies—and added depth from two consecutive redshirted freshman classes—could fuel the Mustangs' first winning season since 1986.

Coach Tom Rossley says: "We need to have some early success. By our A&M contest last year, we showed we're much more competitive than we've been. We had chances with real good teams in UCLA, North Carolina and A&M and ended the Rice game on their 1-foot line. Several games, we were on the edge. We need a few impact players to make plays."

COACHING DATA

Coach: Tom Rossley (9-32-3, 4 years)

1994 record: 1-9-1 SWC 0-6-1/7th

Key losses: Michael Artmore, CB/SS, John Biggins, WR, Bryan Craig, OT, Vernon Edwards, DE, Tony Nead, G, Mick Rossley, WR, Jacques Smith, RB, B.J. Stankovich, LB, Erwin Wilburn, WR

Starters returning: Offense (5): Keith Chiles, G, 5-11/320, Jr., Ramon Flanigan, QB, 6-2/175, Jr.; Jason Holz, T, 6-8/300, Jr., Brannon Kidd, C, 6-4/295, Jr.; James Whitmore, WR 5-9/170, Sr. Defense (8): Chris Bordano, LB, 6-2/220, Jr.; Jason Evans, T, 6-4/260, Soph., Jay Harvey, CB, 5-11/180, Sr., Brian Kennedy, T, 6-3/270, Sr., Cagan Morgan, LB, 6-1/260, Sr., Cornell Parker, CB, 5-11/195, Sr.; Wilbert Mitchell, E, 6-3/265, Jr., Troy Williams, FS, 5-9/175, Sr.

Kickers (2): Ben Crosland, K, 6-3/220, Sr., Anthony Scotti, P, 6-3/190, Soph.

Other key returnees: Bryan Harmon, RB, Soph., Ahmad Hayes, DT, Soph., Jackson Moore, LB, Soph., DeAndrea Robinson, WR, Soph. (RS), Wade Smith, LB, Soph., Craig Swann, LB, Jr.; Kevin Thomas, WR, Jr. (RS), Donnie Wornack, RB, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Flanigan (182 att, 502 yds., 12 TD); Passing: Flanigan (312 att, 168 comp, 8 INT, 6 TD, 1,869 yds.); Receiving: Whitmore (29 rec., 363 yds., 1 TD); Tackler: Bordano (111); Sackler: Evans (2)

Top newcomers: Mercury Hall, LB, Fr. (RS), Eric Thomas, CB, Fr. (RS), Wendell Washington, DE, Fr. (RS)

Site: Dallas. **Stadium:** Cotton Bowl (68,252)
Last league title won: 1984 (tie)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Arkansas	Oct. 21 —at Houston
Sept. 9 —Navy	Oct. 28 —Rice
Sept. 16 —at Oklahoma	Nov. 4 —at Texas Christian
Sept. 23 —at Wisconsin	Nov. 11 —Baylor
Sept. 30 —Texas	Nov. 18 —Texas Tech
Oct. 14 —at Texas A&M	

B. HOUSTON

Offensive strengths: Chuck Clements has thrown for more than 2,000 career yards despite breaking his hand in the fourth game last season. He has the maturity now to reduce his interception total. Tackle Jimmy Herndon is very good. Running back Jermaine Williams has enough size to break tackles and, as does sidekick Jay McGuire, good hands. Running back Antowain Smith is a threat.

Offensive weaknesses: There were only six linemen on campus during the spring, including two tackles, one of whom was a converted defensive lineman. The Cougars don't have a true fullback or a tight end with experience—they moved a defensive tackle and a center to tight end—and precious little depth at running back. This team is woefully thin at wide receiver.

Defensive strengths: Although small, Mike Parker is an extremely active middle linebacker. Otis Grant is one of the few defensive linemen on this team with the size and height to play the position. Jerome Williams, the best player in a weak secondary, is moving to free safety.

Defensive weaknesses: Little speed or talent exist in the secondary, which accounted for three interceptions last season. The Cougars ranked 100th or worse nationally in three defensive categories and show little cause for improvement.

Special teams: A new punter and kicker can't hurt. Walk-on Michael Waddell is one candidate, as is Ignacio Saucedo, who averaged 42 yards a punt and kicked seven field goals (one a 51-yarder) in high school last year. The return duties are wide open.

Keys to success: Tops on the Cougars' priority list is finding some semblance of an offensive line that can help a dreary running attack that averaged just 94.8 yards per game.

Outlook: This program is floundering. Houston has won only one game in each of Kim Helton's first two seasons and there is little reason to expect better results in 1995. With only 45 scholarship players on campus in the spring, the Cougars will be relying on 24 freshmen to fill critical holes in both lines, at tight end and on the special teams.

Coach Kim Helton says: "We have a chance to be better because those nine or 10 kids who had never played college football are better. We were a terrible defensive football team. I hate to use harsh words to describe our team, but we were a poor football team in most phases of the game other than two tackles and a punter. Depending on the impact of eight or 10 kids—if some can run in and knock the snout out of some folks—we will be better. We signed enough talent."

COUGARS DATA

Coach: Kim Helton (2-19-1, 2 years)

1994 record: 1-10 SWC 1-6/6th

Key losses: Daniel Adams, FL, John Brown, CB, Trace Craft, K, Chris Herold, TE, Demond James, LB, Chris Jones, LB, Mike Meux, DT, Billy Milner, OT, Ron Peters, SE, Julian Pitre, WR, Jason Sioft, P, Alfred Young, CB

Starters returning: Offense (5): Chuck Clements, QB, 6-3/184, Jr., Ben Fricke, C, 6-2/275, Soph., Jimmy Herndon, T, 6-8/280, Sr., Bobby Rodriguez, FB, 5-11/232, Sr., Steven Williams, G, 6-1/282, Sr., Jermaine Williams, TB, 6-1/202, Jr. Defense (7): Keon Banks, SS, 5-11/200, Soph., Carlos Chester, T, 6-2/245, Sr., Marlon Fooks, E, 6-0/250, Sr., Rusty Foster, LB, 6-3/235, Soph., Otis Grant, T, 6-8/255, Sr., Dedric Mathis, CB, 5-10/181, Sr., Jerome Williams, FS (moved from SS), 6-0/195, Sr.

Kickers: None

Other key returnees: Ryan Burton, FB, Soph., Damon Johnson, WR, Jr., Jay McGuire, TB, Soph., Mike Parker, LB, Soph., Leonta Rheams, DE, Soph., Charles West, WR, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Williams (136 att, 670 yds., 5 TD); Passing: Clements (162 att, 91 comp, 5 INT, 3 TD, 838 yds.); Receiving: West (26 rec., 312 yds., 0 TD); Tackler: Parker (99); Sackler: Fooks (4)

Top newcomers: Greg Brown, OL, Fr.; Jason deGroot, WR, Fr. (RS); Jonathan Dennis, TE, Fr., Rodney Griffin, TE, Fr., Gary Haynes, DL, Jr. (JC), James Reddish, LB, Jr. (JC), Larry Roper, DL, Fr., Ignacio Saucedo, P/K, Fr.; Antowain Smith, RB, Jr. (JC), Marcus Spriggs, OL, Jr. (JC), Michael Waddell, K/P, Fr. (RS)

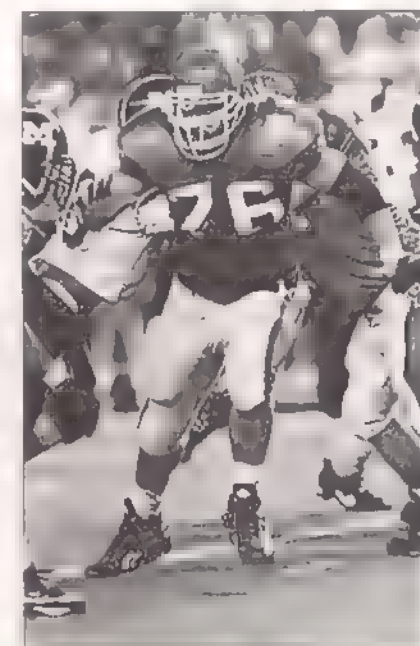
Site: Houston. **Stadium:** Astrodome (60,000) Robertson Stadium (22,000)

Last league title won: 1984 (tie)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Florida	Oct. 21 —So. Methodist
Sept. 9 —Louisiana Tech	Oct. 28 —at Texas A&M
Sept. 16 —at So. California	Nov. 11 —Texas
Sept. 23 —at Kansas	Nov. 25 —Texas Tech
Oct. 7 —at Texas Christian	Dec. 2 —at Rice
Oct. 14 —Baylor	

Kirk Bohls covers Texas and the SWC for the Austin (Texas) American-Statesman.



Offensive tackle Jimmy Herndon is one of the few bright spots on Houston's squad.

SCOUTING THE SOUTHWEST

Ascending: Texas Tech and TCU. It took Tech 56 years to reach the Cotton Bowl again, but it hardly was worth the wait as Southern California trashed the Red Raiders, 55-14. With that game out of its system, Texas Tech should continue its resurgence this year. The Horned Frogs, meanwhile, went bowling for the first time in 10 years and should again, thanks to superior offensive personnel.

Descending: Houston, if that's possible. The lowly Cougars beat a one-win SMU team and was itself shut out by 3-8-1 Missouri and blown out by 2-9 Louisiana Tech. Houston scored more than 13 points only once—against SMU.

Nightmare schedule: Baylor. After a breather at Tulsa, the Bears have to cope with six bowl teams and a Texas A&M team that didn't lose a game in 1994. Three of those toughies—Miami, Texas and North Carolina State—are on the road.

Dream schedule: TCU. The Frogs' non-conference slate includes patbies Iowa State, Tulane and Vanderbilt and middle-of-the-road Kansas. They play Texas A&M at home, so perhaps the loss will be less lopsided.

Best matchup of the year: Texas at Texas A&M, December 2. The Aggies have owned the Longhorns since 1984, but Texas could derail A&M's national championship hopes in this nationally televised game.

Worst matchup of the year: Houston at Florida, September 2. Lord, have mercy on the Cougars' souls. Better yet, Steve Spurrier, have mercy on Florida alum Kim Helton.

Shocker of the year: Texas at SMU, September 30. This one is tailor-made for a grand upset in the Mustangs' new stomping grounds, the Cotton Bowl. Texas will be bored (it hasn't lost to SMU since 1985) and coming off a game at Notre Dame.

Bowl bound: Texas A&M and Texas, for now. Texas Tech should join them if a season-opening disaster at Penn State does not destroy the Red Raiders' psyche. TCU and Baylor have a chance.

Biggest shoes to fill: Texas A&M linebacker Antonio Armstrong's. Junior-college transfer Jimmy Irby and reserve Keith Mitchell both have a chance to become the Aggies' next spectacular, pass-rushing linebacker.

Most underrated player: Texas cornerback Bryant Westbrook. This junior has been outstanding from the day he stepped on campus.

Most overrated player: Texas A&M quarterback Corey Pullig. He is steady but hardly sterling, and certainly no Bucky Richardson.

Best head coach: R.C. Slocum, Texas A&M. Probation, the loss of seven assistant coaches in the same year and the lack of a great quarterback and great wide receivers have not kept Slocum from achieving unparalleled success in College Station.

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive backfield:	Baylor
Best wide receivers:	Texas Tech.
Best offensive line:	Texas A&M
Best defensive line:	Texas A&M
Best linebackers:	Texas Tech.
Best secondary:	Texas A&M
Best special teams:	Texas
Hardest hitter:	Brandon Mitchell, DE, Texas A&M
Best backup quarterback:	Shea Morenz, Texas
Best pro prospect:	Leeland McElroy, RB, Texas A&M
Best stadium:	Cotton Bowl
Best rivalry:	Texas-Texas A&M

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. Texas A&M (Best recruit: LB Jimmy Irby) The Aggies signed more top-quality running backs than could ever fit in a backfield together. Instant-impact linebacker Jimmy Irby and wide receiver Albert Connell, both junior-college transfers, should ease A&M's entrance into the Big 12 next season.
2. Baylor (WR Darius Thompson)
3. Texas (RB Ricky Williams)
4. Texas Tech (OT Curtis Lowery)
5. Texas Christian (LB Kam Hunt)
6. Rice (LB Thomas Benford)
7. Houston (TE Rodney Griffin)
8. Southern Methodist (CB Donald Mitchell)

Best coaching staff: Texas A&M. The Aggies already had the best group of assistants in the league, and the addition of former offensive line coach Mike Sherman (returning from a one-year sabbatical at UCLA) only makes it better. Offensive coordinator Steve Ensminger, who helped shape Georgia's Eric Zeier



Texas cornerback Bryant Westbrook has starred since the day he stepped on campus.

into an NFL prospect, continues to upgrade the A&M passing attack.

Coach on the hot seat: John Mackovic, Texas. Until he wins big, his seat will stay hot. A 19-14-1 record in three years hasn't lowered the temperature any, and Mackovic has just two years left on his contract.

Best bets: Some team will be dumb enough to kick deep to Texas A&M's Leeland McElroy again. His 13 carries per game at running back will double, as well. . . . A newcomer will lead Texas in rushing. . . . TCU will win its first six games. . . . The league race won't end in another five-way tie for first. . . . Texas Tech's Marcus Coleman will return a fifth interception for a touchdown to tie the NCAA career record. . . . TCU running back Andre Davis will miss a practice, a class or a meal. . . . The SWC will have better quarterbacks than any league in the country, and one of them, SMU's Ramon Flanigan, will get hurt.

Odds and ends: Celebrating its 50th year of football, Houston will play its first home game, against Louisiana Tech, at 22,000-seat Robertson Stadium, an on-campus venue where it hasn't played since 1960 and hasn't played regularly since 1950. . . . Texas hasn't been to bowl games in consecutive seasons since 1984-85. . . . Texas Tech linebacker Zach Thomas' sister got a modeling job in New York City. . . . A&M's Leeland McElroy ran a hand-timed 4.27 40-yard dash in the spring and posted a 40-inch vertical leap, a 390-pound bench press and a 510-pound squat. . . . Texas A&M might have the best scout-team quarterback in America in Brannon Stewart, a 6-3, 210-pound transfer from Tennessee who completed 34 of 55 passes for 424 yards and one touchdown last season and connected on all three of his passes against Virginia Tech in the Gator Bowl. . . . Houston Coach Kim Helton's son, Tyson, is a freshman quarterback at the school. . . . Tony Daniels, a 245-pound defensive end at Texas Tech, had a 6-10 high jump in high school. . . . Baylor has six 300-pound players on its roster, including 398-pound offensive guard Patrick Dukes. . . . SMU hired former Texas All-America defensive back Jerry Gray to coach its secondary. . . . Texas started 39 different players in 1994. . . . In Baylor's seven victories, quarterback Jeff Watson threw for eight touchdowns with two interceptions. In the team's four regular-season losses, he had two touchdowns and eight interceptions. . . . Baylor's defense and special teams scored 53 points last season. . . . TCU's 6-4, 225-pound quarterback Chance McCarty switched to defensive end and, Coach Pat Sullivan predicts, "will be an all-star player." . . . Baylor's 6-7, 315-pound defensive end Daryl Gardener has a bench press of 420 pounds and runs the 40-yard dash in 4.6 seconds.

—KIRK BOHLS

1. FRESNO STATE

Offensive strengths: Hands, hands, hands. Fresno State's returning wide receivers, Charlie Jones and Brian Roberson, combined for 104 catches and 1,871 yards last season. Junior-college All-America Greg Minnatee comes aboard, too. The running game isn't bad, either, with Jerome Oliver and Michael Pittman forming a potent threat at tailback.

Offensive weaknesses: A possible quarterback controversy looms. Richie Donati threw for 2,254 yards last year, but the Bulldogs are intrigued by junior-college transfer Jim Arellanes. The two will share time early in the season.

Defensive strengths: Coach Jim Sweeney was satisfied with the transition from a 3-4 to a 4-3 set. Junior-college linemen Lumumba Neal and Kamon Pierce should make noise. Gene Smith is solid at linebacker.

Defensive weaknesses: The junior-college additions must help the run defense. In 1994, opponents averaged 4.8 yards per rush. The four-man front should augment the Bulldogs' pass rush. Steve Casner moves from linebacker to end and has enough speed to create problems. The secondary is the biggest area of concern.

Special teams: Fresno State needs a punter, but Johan Lyssand (14 of 18 on field-goal attempts in '94) handles the kicking nicely.

Key to success: The junior-college recruiting class was superb. If the new people are half as good as Sweeney is hungry, the Bulldogs should rise quickly from their seventh-place WAC finish of a year ago.

Outlook: Fresno State's big-play lightning should return—provided the quarterback situation is worked out. The Bulldogs got their comeuppance last year and learned from it big-time. Added bonus: They don't play Colorado State and have Brigham Young and Air Force at home.

Coach Jim Sweeney says: "Last year's demise caused us to rethink what we were doing. We took our limited success for granted. . . . The growth of our returning players plus the JC guys made us a lot better."

COACH JIM SWEENEY

Coach: Jim Sweeney (137-58-3, 17 years, 194-137-4 overall, 30 years)

1994 record: 5-7-1 WAC 3-4-1/7th

Key losses: Larry Cook, CB; David Dunn, WR; Demetrius Edwards, NG; Jason James, CB; Sai Mejico, FB; Ron Papazian, LB; Chris Rockwell, DE; Lance Thomas, FS

Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Chris Conrad, T (may play G), 8-7/280, Soph.; Riche Donati, QB, 6-3/200, Jr.; Dan Han, T, 6-4/305, Sr.; Charlie Jones, FL, 5-10/170, Sr.; Brian Malcolm, G, 6-2/285, Sr.; Jerome Oliver, TB, 5-9/200, Sr.; Gary Osmundson, T/C, 6-3/275, Jr.; Brian Roberson, SE, 5-10/170, Jr.

Defense (5): Steve Casner, E (moved from LB), 6-3/245, Sr.; Gene Smith, LB, 6-4/235, Sr.; Omar Stoutmire, SS, 5-11/195, Jr.; Rio Wells, CB, 5-9/170, Jr.; Danny Williams, E, 6-4/265, Jr.

Kickers (1): Johan Lyssand, K, 5-7/150, Soph.

Other key returnees: Reggie Brown, FB, Sr.; Woody Green, CB, Soph.; Andre Gings, LB, Sr.; Marlon Jackson, CB, Soph.; Dion Laffitte, LB, Soph.; Chris Love, LB (moved from S), Soph.; Latano Rachal, WR, Sr.; Scott Mueller, G, Jr.; Michael Pittman, TB, Soph.; Shatony Sargeant, DT, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Oliver (258 att., 1,106 yds., 8 TD); Passing: Donati (263 att., 152 comp., 9 INT, 11 TD, 2,254 yds.); Receiving: Jones (54 rec., 971 yds, 6 TD); Tackler: Casner (98); Sackler: Stoutmire (5)

Top newcomers: Jim Arellanes, QB, Jr. (JC); Chris Bayne, DB (JC); Demick Hentz, LB, Sr. (JC); Jua Jackson, DB, Fr.; Greg Minnatee, WR, Jr. (JC); Lumumba Neal, DL, Jr. (JC); Lee Pakola, DL, Jr. (JC); Kamon Pierce, DL, Jr. (JC); Damon Shelton, RB, Jr. (JC); John Shelton, LB, Jr. (JC)

Site: Fresno Calif. Stadium: Bulldog (41,031)

Last league title won: 1993 (tie)

WESTERN ATHLETIC

Conference Rank: 8

By PHILL CASAUS

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. FRESNO STATE
2. COLORADO STATE
3. BRIGHAM YOUNG
4. AIR FORCE
5. SAN DIEGO STATE
6. WYOMING
7. NEW MEXICO
8. UTAH
9. HAWAII
10. TEXAS-EL PASO



Fresno State foes may frequently see the back of wideout Charlie Jones' jersey.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —NE Louisiana	Oct. 14 —at San Diego St.
Sept. 9 —at California	Oct. 28 —Air Force
Sept. 16 —Pacific	Nov. 4 —at Hawaii
Sept. 23 —at Utah	Nov. 11 —Texas-El Paso
Sept. 30 —at UCLA	Nov. 18 —at Wyoming
Oct. 7 —New Mexico	Nov. 25 —Brigham Young

2. COLORADO STATE

Offensive strengths: The Rams can grind people down behind a line headed by Brandon Evans and James Cregg. Running back E.J. Watson is due for a big year.

Offensive weaknesses: Like almost everyone else in the WAC, Colorado State needs a quarterback to be a reasonable facsimile of last year's starter. Look for Moses Moreno and junior-college recruit Daren

Wilkinson to battle for the starting spot left by the departure of the gifted Anthony Hill. Depth is so-so at receiver.

Defensive strengths: The physical Rams are excellent at end, with Sean Moran and Brady Smith, and the secondary—led by Greg Myers and Ray Jackson—is a spider's web for opposing passers.

Defensive weaknesses: In terms of experience, linebacking may be an adventure. Also, is there enough depth?

Special teams: Matt McDougal will handle both the placements and the punting. The snapper, holder and key returners are back.

Key to success: Colorado State must discover a quarterback—and soon. The defense will be tough and stingy, but some offensive help is a must.

Outlook: Colorado State turned a corner with last year's trip to the Holiday Bowl. The Rams' brand of football should keep them close to the top, particularly if the defense creates some easy points. Look for some 17-10 games in Fort Collins.

Coach Sonny Lubick says: "I sense in our players that they have a good feeling about themselves. For the first time in CSU history, I think we're beginning to think we're football players and a football team with pride. Now the concern I have is that we better not forget what got us there."

RAMS DATA

Coach: Sonny Lubick (15-8, 2 years, 36-27 overall, 8 years). **1994 record:** 10-2 (lost to Michigan in Holiday Bowl). **WAC:** 7-1/1st

Key losses: Jeremy Burkett, WR; Mark Donnelly, G; Anthony Hill, QB; Steve Hodge, DT; Kareem Ingram, LB; Pat Meyer, OT; David Napier, K; Eric Olsen, WR; John Polousky, C; Kenya Ragsdale, LB; Andre Strode, CB

Starters returning: **Offense (5):** James Cregg, G, 6-3/260, Sr.; Brandon Evans, T, 6-4/285, Sr.; Justin Shull, TE, 6-2/260, Jr.; Paul Turner, WR, 5-10/175, Jr.; E.J. Watson, FB, 5-11/208, Sr.

Defense (7): Kirk Bowman, T, 6-4/258, Jr.; Ray Jackson, CB, 5-10/189, Sr.; Scott Lynch, SS, 6-1/188, Sr.; Sean Moran, E, 6-3/254, Sr.; Greg Myers, FS, 6-2/193, Sr.; Garrett Sand, LB, 6-2/228, Sr.; Brady Smith, E, 6-8/240, Sr.

Kickers (1): Matt McDougal, K/P, 5-10/169, Jr.

Other key returnees: Ronald Antone, WR, Jr.; Karl Ballard, LB, Sr.; Mark Craft, CB, Sr.; DeVaughn Hawkins, DT, Soph.; Moses Moreno, QB, Soph.; Mark Rogowski, OT, Jr.; Derrick Roth, LB, Sr.; Van Ward, FB, Sr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Watson (160 att., 655 yds., 9 TD); Passing: Moreno (20 att., 8 comp., 1 INT, 0 TD, 72 yds.); Receiving: Shull (12 rec., 209 yds., 3 TD); Tackler: Sand (95); Sackler: Smith (9).

Top newcomers: Derrick Harden, LB, Fr. (RS); Santee Nixon, DT, Fr. (RS); Allie Parker, WR, Fr. (RS); Lynne Ray Smith, DE, Soph. (Prop 48); Eric Vaughn, LB, Fr. (RS); Daren Wilkinson, QB, Jr. (JC)

Site: Fort Collins, Colo. **Stadium:** Hughes Stadium (30,000).

Last league title won: 1994

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Montana State	Oct. 21 —New Mexico
Sept. 9 —at Colorado	Oct. 28 —at Wyoming
Sept. 16 —at Air Force	Nov. 4 —Texas-El Paso
Sept. 30 —Brigham Young	Nov. 11 —Hawaii
Oct. 7 —at Utah State	Nov. 25 —at San Diego St.
Oct. 14 —at Utah	

3. BRIGHAM YOUNG

Offensive strengths: Opponents often forget about BYU's tight ends. This year, with Chad Lewis and Itula Mili around, that would be a mistake. Hema Heimuli is the factory-issue BYU back who can run (552 yards) and catch (40 receptions).

Offensive weaknesses: QB Steve Sarkisian is fresh out of the California junior-college ranks and will work behind an inexperienced line (the only returnee is senior James Johnson). It's not the usual



Hema Heimull is the factory-issue Brigham Young running back who can run and catch.

BYU recipe.

Defensive strengths: Headed by brothers John and Stan Raass at defensive tackle and linebacker, BYU is tough up front. The Cougars reestablished themselves in '94 as a team that would hit. The linebacking corps is especially deep.

Defensive weaknesses: Only Dermell Reed returns in the secondary. And while BYU has reemphasized speed, will the Cougars really be able to track down the WAC's premier receivers?

Special teams: The Cougars must replace kicker David Lauder. Alan Boardman and his 41.7 punting average are back.

Key to success: The offensive line must let the highly touted Sarkisian find his way early, and the defense must make opponents' quarterbacks scramble.

Outlook: Unlike past years, the Cougars must depend on defense and the overall strength of their program to fend off the league's up-and-comers. Coach LaVell Edwards has great confidence in Sarkisian's ability to handle an offense that gives quarterbacks a variety of choices, and Sarkisian has shown a willingness to let fly. Last year, he tossed 41 touchdown passes, and threw for 645 yards in one game. The time to get BYU is early, before the inexperienced people find their way.

Coach LaVell Edwards says: "We've tried to get more speed on defense and I think we've improved there."

COACHING DATA

Coach: LaVell Edwards (207-78-3, 23 years)
1994 record: 10-3 (beat Oklahoma in Copper Bowl) WAC 6-2/T2nd.

Key losses: Randy Brock, DE; Cory Cook, FS; Jack Damuni, SS; Bryce Doman, WR; Jim Edwards, C; Travis Hall, DE; Tim Hanshaw, G; Eli Herring, OT; David Lauder, K; Patrick Mitchell, CB; Tim Nowatzke, WR; Evan Pilgrim, G; John Walsh, QB (declared for NFL draft); Jamal Willis, RB.
Starters returning: Offense (3): Hema Heimull, FB 6-2/210, Sr. James Johnson, T, 6-6/285, Jr.; Chad Lewis, TE, 6-6/235, Jr. Defense (6): Shay Muirbrook, LB, 6-1/235, Jr. John Raass, NT, 6-0/300, Sr.; Stan Raass, LB, 6-0/260, Sr.; Dermell Reed, CB, 5-9/175, Sr.; Dennis Simmons, LB, 6-4/215, Jr.; Mike Ufalala, T, 6-5/285, Sr. Kickers (1): Alan Boardman, P, 5-11/190, Jr.

Other key returnees: Scott Albrecht, LB, Sr.; Mark Atuaia, RB, Sr.; Jamie Cook, DB, Sr.; Jim Freeland, LB, Sr.; Lane Hale, DB, Jr.; Mike Johnston, WR, Sr.; Kaijo McGuire, WR,

Jr.; Itula Mili, TE, Jr.; Jon Pollock, S, Sr.
Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Heimull (126 att., 552 yds., 4 TD); Passing: None.; Receiving: Heimull (40 rec., 456 yds., 6 TD); Tackler: Muirbrook (107); Sacker: Muirbrook and Ufalala (6).

Top newcomers: Henry Bloomfield, DL, Jr. (JC); Greg Hoagland, OL, Jr. (JC); Levi Kealahiki, WR, Jr. (JC); Tim McTyler, CB, Jr. (JC); Steve Sarkisian, QB, Jr. (JC)
Site: Provo, Utah. **Stadium:** Cougar Stadium (65,000).
Last league title won: 1993 (1st)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Air Force	Oct. 28 —Hawaii
Sept. 9 —UCLA	Nov. 4 —Tulsa
Sept. 16 —San Diego State	Nov. 11 —at New Mexico
Sept. 23 —Wyoming	Nov. 18 —Utah
Sept. 30 —at Colorado State	Nov. 25 —at Fresno State
Oct. 14 —at Arizona State	

4. AIR FORCE

Offensive strengths: No wishbone flourishes without a good quarterback. Beau Morgan, according to Coach Fisher DeBerry, has a "chance to be as good as anyone we've had." Air Force has had some great ones. The Falcons also are balanced on the ground; they ranked second in the nation in rushing last season, yet didn't have a player run for more than 700 yards. Halfback Jake Campbell is primed for a good year.

Offensive weaknesses: The Falcons have to find a center and two tackles to mesh with guards Carlton Hendrix and Bret Cillessen.

Defensive strengths: Air Force places heavy emphasis at cornerback, where Kelvin King and Michael Dalton will rule. LeRon Hudgins is solid at strong safety. The Falcons' secondary should be solid.

Defensive weaknesses: Where's the pass rush? Linebacker Brian McCray leads the returnees with three sacks. Replacing departed linebackers Johnny Harrison and Steve Russ will be a chore. The experiment of the spring was the move of noseguard Mark DeRock to outside linebacker. It's a

tough transition, but if it pays off, Air Force will be greatly helped.

Special teams: Randy Roberts was 13 of 22 on field-goal attempts. Punter Steve Carr averaged a solid 41.7 yards in '94.

Key to success: Air Force may be the streakiest team in the league. A little consistency wouldn't hurt. Although the Falcons aren't a bad passing team (1,563 yards last season) for a club that runs the wishbone, they still can't afford too many third-and-longs.

Outlook: The Falcons rose from the dead last season, putting together an 8-1 finish after beginning the year with three losses. If Air Force beats BYU early, the rest of the league will have a target in its sights. One way to help get into a bowl game would be to knock off Notre Dame at Falcon Stadium, but that might be asking too much for the thin Falcons.

Coach Fisher DeBerry says: "We'll be a competitive team, but we need to be lucky, healthy and smart if we're going to continue the momentum we had at the end of last year."

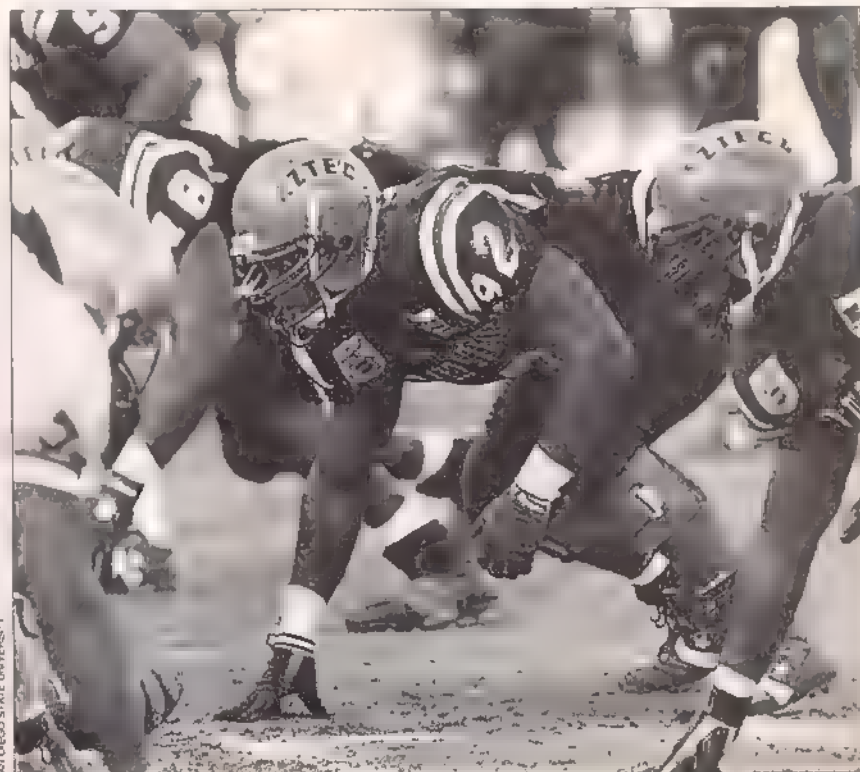
COACHING DATA

Coach: Fisher DeBerry (64-50-1, 11 years)
1994 record: 6-4 WAC 6-2/T2nd.

Key losses: Erik Davis, DT; Johnny Harrison, LB; Jeremy Johnson, RB; Jake Maloy, FB; Jim Moore, OT; Steve Russ, LB; Rocky Thurston, C; Jason Tene, DT; Steve Walker, LB; Brian Watkins, CB; Kevin Williams, CB; Matt Young, OT.
Starters returning: Offense (6): Jake Campbell, RB, 5-7/175, Sr.; Bret Cillessen, G, 6-1/252, Jr.; Carlton Hendrix, G, 6-3/251, Jr.; Richie Marsh, WR, 6-2/180, Jr.; Beau Morgan, QB, 5-11/187, Jr.; Alex Pupich, TE, 6-3/232, Jr. Defense (4): Mark DeRock, LB (moved from NG), 6-2/250, Sr.; LeRon Hudgins, SS, 6-1/205, Sr.; Kelvin King, CB/FS, 6-0/172, Sr.; Brian McCray, LB, 6-0/221, Jr. Kickers (2): Steve Carr, P, 6-5/226, Sr.; Randy Roberts, K, 6-0/201, Sr.

Other key returnees: Naida Addison, FB, Jr.; Michael Dalton, CB, Jr.; Chris Glizzi, LB, Jr.; Craig Hancock, WR, Sr.; Bobby Holloway, DT, Sr.; Danta Johnson, RB, Sr.; Tobin Ruff, RB,

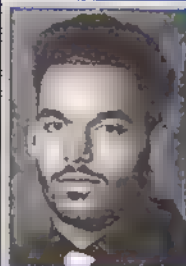
Continued



San Diego State's defense returns eight starters, including standout tackle La'Rol Glover.

PRESEASON ALL-WESTERN ATHLETIC

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



MARCUS HARRIS
WR Wyoming

OFFENSE



SEAN MORAN
E Colorado State

DEFENSE

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE: Josh Wallwork, QB, Wyoming
DEFENSE: Chris Bayne S., Fresno State

COACH OF THE YEAR

Jim Sweeney, Fresno State

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht/Wt.	Class
WR	MARCUS HARRIS, Wyoming	6-2/207	Jr.
WR	CHARLIE JONES, Fresno State	5-10/170	Sr.
TE	HENRY LUSK, Utah	6-1/232	Sr.
T	MATT TYNER, New Mexico	6-3/285	Soph.
T	STEVE SCIFRES, Wyoming	6-5/285	Jr.
G	BRET GILLESSEN, Air Force	6-1/252	Jr.
G	CHRIS FINCH, San Diego State	6-6/295	Sr.
C	BRANDON TURNER, New Mex.	6-3/292	Jr.
QB	BILLY BLANTON, San Diego St.	6-0/190	Jr.
RB	TORRINO SINGLETON, UTEP	6-3/230	Sr.
RB	HEMA HEIMULI, Brigham Young	6-2/210	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	SEAN MORAN, Colorado State	6-3/254	Sr.
T	LARCI GLOVER, San Diego St.	6-2/275	Sr.
T	JOHN RAASS, Brigham Young	6-0/300	Sr.
E	BRADY SMITH, Colorado State	6-6/240	Sr.
LB	SHAY MUIRBRICK, Brigham Young	6-1/235	Jr.
LB	CRAIGUS THOMPSON, San Diego St.	6-1/210	Jr.
LB	GARRETT SAND, Colorado State	6-2/228	Sr.
CB	RAY JACKSON, Colorado State	5-10/189	Sr.
CB	ART CELESTINE, New Mexico	5-9/192	Sr.
S	GREG MYERS, Colorado State	6-2/193	Sr.
S	RICKY PARKER, San Diego St.	6-1/190	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

K	MARSHALL YOUNG, Texas-El Paso	5-10/189	Sr.
P	BRIAN GRAGERT, Wyoming	6-1/228	Sr.
KR	GREG MYERS, Colorado State	6-2/193	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht/Wt.	Class
WR	WILL BLACKWELL, San Diego St.	6-0/180	Soph.
WR	BRIAN ROBERSON, Fresno St.	5-10/170	Jr.
TE	CHAD LEWIS, Brigham Young	6-6/235	Jr.
T	JASON BARTLETT, Wyoming	6-6/295	Sr.
T	GARY OSWALDSON, Fresno St.	6-3/275	Jr.
G	JAY KORTH, Wyoming	6-4/284	Soph.
G	JAMES CREGG, Colorado State	6-3/260	Sr.
C	ERIC PETERSON, San Diego St.	6-2/265	Sr.
QB	BEAL MORGAN, Air Force	5-11/187	Jr.
RB	REGGIE BROWN, Fresno State	6-1/225	Sr.
RB	JEROME OLIVER, Fresno State	5-9/200	Sr.

DEFENSE

E	JEFF KAUFUSI, Utah	6-6/244	Sr.
T	GEORGE MOGA, Hawaii	6-2/244	Sr.
T	MIKE ULUFALE, Brigham Young	6-5/285	Sr.
E	JOHN WINGATE, New Mexico	6-3/259	Soph.
LB	GENE SMITH, Fresno State	6-2/235	Sr.
LB	MICHAEL COMER, Texas-El Paso	5-9/253	Jr.
LB	STAN RAASS, Brigham Young	6-0/260	Sr.
CB	DERMEL REED, Brigham Young	5-9/175	Sr.
CB	KELVIN KING, Air Force	6-0/172	Sr.
S	LARON HUGHINS, Air Force	6-1/205	Sr.
S	HAROLD LUSK, Utah	5-11/188	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

K	CORY WEDEL, Wyoming	5-9/179	Soph.
P	ALAN BOARDMAN, Brigham Young	5-11/190	Jr.
KR	CAL BECK, Utah	6-0/180	Soph.

Soph.; Chris Schweighardt, Jr., NG

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Campbell (110 att., 689 yds., 10 TD); Passing: Morgan (89 att., 41 comp., 2 INT 5 TD, 873 yds.); Receiving: Marsh (21 rec., 309 yds., 0 TD); Tackles: King (76); Sackler McCray (3)

Top newcomers: Steve Fernandez, LB, Soph.; Sean Finner, LB, Soph.; Brad Huff, OT, Soph

Site: Colorado Springs, Colo. Stadium: Falcon Stadium (50,048)

Last league title won: 1985

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Brigham Young	Oct. 14 —at Navy
Sept. 9 —Wyoming	Oct. 21 —at Utah
Sept. 16 —Colorado State	Oct. 28 —at Fresno State
Sept. 23 —at Northwestern	Nov. 11 —Army
Sept. 30 —at New Mexico	Nov. 18 —Notre Dame
Oct. 7 —Texas-El Paso	Nov. 25 —at Hawaii

5. SAN DIEGO STATE

Offensive strengths: Guard Chris Finch heads a line that returns four starters. That's a comfort to quarterback Billy Blanton, who did decent work after getting the job at midyear but still needs experience. Wide receivers Will Blackwell and Ray Peterson and tight end Zach Smith should help bail out Blanton.

Offensive weaknesses: The ground game is hurting with the departure of efficient running back Wayne Pittman. Also, someone needs to step up with big-play ability at crunch time.

Defensive strengths: Eight starters return, including the stellar trio of tackle La'Roi Glover, safety Ricky Parker and linebacker Craigus Thompson. If experience up the middle counts for anything, San Diego State should be improved. The Aztecs went back to the future for help, hiring former coach Claude Gilbert (1973-80) to coordinate the defense. Last year, Gilbert coached at a high school in Albuquerque.

Defensive weaknesses: While Parker

could be a dominant player, the Aztecs' secondary did a poor job of tackling—and covering—last season (opponents completed 58 percent of their passes). As a unit, the San Diego State defense yielded 30.8 points per game and was hammered for 159 points in the final four games of '94.

Special teams: Up-and-down kicker Peter Holt is back, but the Aztecs need a punter. San Diego State's strength was in punt returns, with Peterson ranking third in the nation last year with a 15.8-yard average.

Key to success: While the Aztecs have 34 of their top 44 players back, they need to find a way to win close games—particularly on the road.

Outlook: This could be the WAC's sleeper team, depending on how much Blanton improves and how hard the defense plays. But then, that's why Coach Ted Tollner wound up in San Diego in the first place—the Aztecs have been sleepers for far too long.

Coach Ted Tollner says: "We've been in situations where we needed to make a play. If we can be more committed, play more intelligently, then I think we'll be all right."

AZTEC DATA

Coach: Ted Tollner (4-7, 1 year;

30-27-1 overall, 5 years)

1994 record: 4-7 WAC: 2-6/8th

Key losses: Scott Blade, LB.

Jamal Duff, DE, Burton Ewert, OT, Ed Kaszycki, P; Wayne Pittman, RB, Curtis Shearer, WR, Eric Sutton, CB

Starters returning: **Offense** (8): Will Blackwell, WR, 6-0/180.

Soph. Billy Blanton, QB, 6-0/190 Jr. Chris Finch, G, 6-6/285

Sr., Eric Peterson, C, 6-2/265, Sr.; Ray Peterson, WR, 5-8/165.

Sr., Matt Roe, G, 6-5/265, Jr., Zach Smith, TE, 6-4/240, Sr.;

Kyle Turley, T, 6-8/275, Soph. **Defense** (8): Roger Blake, E,

6-4/250, Sr., Dwight Chomomud, LB, 6-1/235, Sr. La'Roi

Glover, T, 6-2/275, Sr., Julius McChristian, SS, 5-10/180.

Soph., Jason Moore, CB, 6-0/175, Soph.; Ricky Parker, FS,

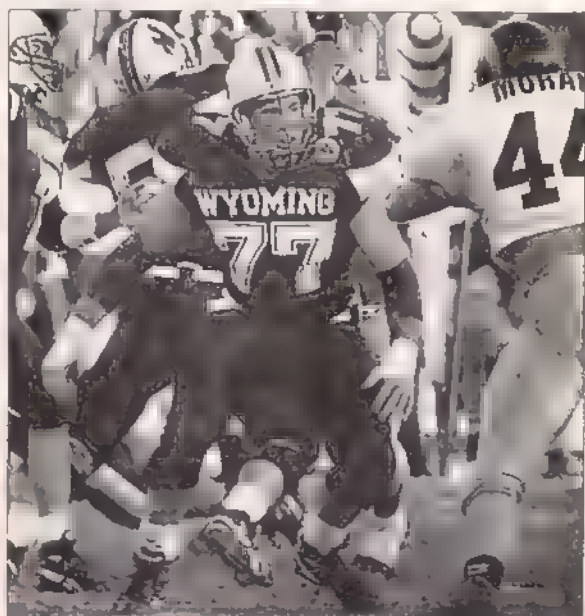
6-1/190, Jr.; Craigus Thompson, LB, 6-1/210, Jr.; Doug Tom,

T, 6-4/260, Sr. **Kickers** (1): Peter Holt, K, 5-10/170, Jr.

Other key returnees: Avo Avetisyan, DT, Sr., Az Hakim, WR

Soph., Adnan Iyia, DE, Jr., DeAndre Maxwell, WR, Sr., Aaron

Pruitt, LB, Sr. (RS/Jr.)



Wyoming offensive tackle Steve Scifres has allowed just two sacks in the Cowboys' last 500 pass attempts.

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Freddie Edwards (18 att. 78 yds., 1 TD); Passing: Blanton (176 att., 112 comp., 6 INT, 15 TD, 1 586 yds.); Receiving: Blackwell (51 rec., 689 yds., 6 TD); Tackler: Thompson (101); Sackler: Glover (5).

Top newcomers: Theron Hill, WR, Jr. (transfer/Washington); Dayna Overton, RB, Soph. (transfer/Michigan).

Site: San Diego. **Stadium:** Jack Murphy Stadium (61,121).

Last league title won: 1988.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —California	Oct. 21 —San Jose State
Sept. 9 —at Oklahoma	Oct. 28 —at Texas-El Paso
Sept. 16 —at Brigham Young	Nov. 4 —New Mexico
Sept. 23 —Nevada	Nov. 11 —Wyoming
Oct. 7 —at Utah	Nov. 18 —at Hawaii
Oct. 14 —Fresno State	Nov. 25 —Colorado State

6. WYOMING

Offensive strengths: The Cowboys' quarterback, newcomer Josh Wallwork, won't have to run for his life—the line is solid. Steve Scifres is a big reason, having started 35 consecutive games at right tackle. But here's why Wallwork is smiling: Scifres has allowed only two sacks in the Cowboys' last 500 pass attempts. Wide receiver Marcus Harris was the only player in the nation with more than 1,300 yards receiving last year, and Brent Tillman is a nice second option for Wallwork.

Offensive weaknesses: Junior-college transfer Jermaine McDowell must save a running game that has no names.

Defensive strengths: End Joe Cummings had four sacks last year, but much will depend on linebackers Jason Holanda and Jim Talich. Depth is shaky. Wyoming is moving players hither and yon in the secondary but has hopes of coming up with the right mix.

Defensive weaknesses: Three new defensive coaches arrived in Laramie this year. It was a bright-as-neon sign that the Cowboys need help here.

Special teams: Returning All-WAC punter Brian Gragert is terrific at the coffin-corner kick. Left-footed Cory Wedel was 6 of 6 on field-goal attempts as a freshman.

Key to success: If Wallwork and McDowell assume control of the offense, and if the defense gets more physical (a big if), Wyoming has a chance to move up.

Outlook: The Cowboys are 23-23-1 under Coach Joe Tiller. Their success depends on several variables and new players. Bottom line: Everything has to break just right for Wyoming to contend. The Cowboys do have winnable non-conference games (Oklahoma State, Louisville, Tulsa).

Coach Joe Tiller says: "I'm cautiously optimistic. If I had to put it into one sentence, I think we'll be better."

COWBOYS DATA

Coach: Joe Tiller (23-23-1, 4 years)

1994 record: 6-5 WAC 4-7/75th

Key losses: John Burrough, DE, Ryan Christopherson, RB; John Gustin, QB; Steve Hendrix, CB, Ty Hopkins, DT, Jeff Pinnick, C, Eddie Pratt, WR, Brent Scheffer, DE; Tyrone Williams, DT.

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Jason Bartlett, T, 6-6/295, Sr. Jeremy Gilstrap, TE, 6-2/235, Sr. Shane Glasser, G, 6-7/290, Soph., Marcus Harris, WR, 6-2/207, Jr.; Jay Korth, G, 6-4/284, Soph.; Steve Scifres, T, 6-5/285, Jr.; Brent Tillman, WR, 6-0/195, Sr. **Defense (7):** Mark Brook, LB, 6-5/235, Sr.; Joe Cummings, E, 6-3/240, Sr.; Jason Holanda, LB, 6-3/213, Sr.; Chuck Poisson, SS, 6-1/187, Jr.; Jim Talich, LB, 6-1/223, Soph.; Greg Van Leer, FS, 5-10/185, Soph.; Lee Vaughn, CB, 5-11/174, Jr. **Kickers (2):** Brian Gragert, P, 6-1/228, Sr. Cory Wedel, K, 5-9/179, Soph.

Other key returnees: Ken Boris, DE, Sr., Pat Larson, DT, Jr., Brian Lee, CB/FS, Soph. Brent Lau, DT, Jr., Waymon



New Mexico knows it can count on cornerback Art Celestine to excel in the secondary.

Levingston, CB, Jr., Donovan McComb, RB, Soph., Rob Rathbun, C, Jr., Dallas Rose, TE, Jr. (RS/injury).

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: McComb (13 att. 80 yds., 0 TD); Passing: Jeremy Dombek (99 att. 43 comp. 5 INT 3 TD, 566 yds.); Receiving: Harris (71 rec., 1,431 yds., 11 TD); Tackler: Tauch (78); Sackler: Cummings (4).

Top newcomers: John Davis, QB, Jr. (JC), Kirby Drube, TE, Fr. (RS); Jerri Haynes, DE, Fr., Jermaine McDowell, RB, Jr. (JC); Franklin (Pancho) Sales, LB, Jr. (JC); David Saraf, WR, Jr. (JC); Josh Wallwork, QB, Jr. (RS/JC).

Site: Laramie, Wyo. **Stadium:** War Memorial Stadium (33,500).

Last league title won: 1993 (tie).

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Oklahoma State	Oct. 21 —at Texas-El Paso
Sept. 9 —at Air Force	Oct. 28 —Colorado State
Sept. 16 —Hawaii	Nov. 4 —Utah
Sept. 23 —at Brigham Young	Nov. 11 —at San Diego St.
Oct. 7 —at Tulsa	Nov. 18 —Fresno State
Oct. 14 —Louisville	

7. NEW MEXICO

Offensive strengths: The Lobos' line, headed by center Brandon Turner, 385-pound guard Calvin (The Eclipse) Allen and tackle Matt Tyner, is big, tough and good.

Offensive weaknesses: Senior quarterback Scott Peterson has thrown just eight passes in his career, and his targets for '95 remain a mystery.

Defensive strengths: New Mexico has good-but-under-sized linebackers in Blake Irwin and Roston Thomas and will welcome back defensive end Buddy Billingsley from a knee injury. Cornerback Art Celestine is a good one.

Defensive weaknesses: There is no depth up front, and the Lobos weren't exactly the biggest people in the world to start with.

Special teams: There's little experience in the kicking game. Winslow Oliver possesses speed as a returner.

Key to success: For all the questions about Peterson's lack of experience, New Mexico's season may depend on the quick feet of oft-injured Oliver at running back. Behind this line, Oliver should run wild; if he doesn't, the heat falls on Peterson.

Outlook: New Mexico has seven home games (four to start the season), which could give the Lobos the boost they've lacked. Last

Continued

BURNING QUESTION

Will 1996 expansion be a boost to recruiting?

The wide, wide world of recruiting gets bigger this year in the WAC, which already is trying to lure players to the 16-team, four-time-zone megaleague that becomes a reality in 1996.

Which, in recruiting terms, means the future is now.

Particularly intriguing to some coaches is the prospect of making inroads in talent-rich Texas. Next year, when Rice, Texas Christian and Southern Methodist join up, schools like Wyoming, San Diego State and Brigham Young may not seem so foreign to recruits in y'all country.

Or will they?

That's a question stirring considerable debate in the WAC. And opinions fly like passes around the league, the nation's one true airborne division.

Texas-El Paso Coach Charlie Bailey, whose school often has an identity problem even in its own state, welcomes the chance to make the WAC more than an afterthought in Houston, Dallas and San Antonio.

"It gives us more of an identity in those areas," Bailey said. "Now, the Dallas paper and the Houston paper are writing us up because of the schools that are coming in."

Air Force Coach Fisher DeBerry was encouraged, too. "It creates some media opportunities that we didn't have before," he said.

Although California is still the golden state for WAC recruiters in more ways than one, the league does have some history in Texas. BYU got Ty Detmer out of San Antonio in the late 1980s, and he went on to win the Heisman. Another factor is scholarship limits. Unlike years past, Texas and Texas A&M can't get every top-notch player—let alone the late-bloomers that WAC schools rely upon.

Even San Diego State Coach Ted Tollner foresees a day when an Aztecs recruiter might explore the wilds of Big D in addition to making the obligatory stops in Los Angeles.

There is some sentiment, though, against revising recruiting strategy.

Brigham Young's LaVell Edwards is more concerned about how the league's schedule will make sense to fans with the addition of six new teams (the Texas schools, plus UNLV, Tulsa and San Jose State).

Then again, who knows? Maybe someday, there will be a huge BYU-TCU rivalry, sparked by a hot recruiting battle in the Lone Star State over a quarterback from Lampasas or a running back from Yoakum.

—PHILL CASAUS

year, the Lobos lost their first five games. Injuries could hurt manpower-shy New Mexico more than any team in the league. **Coach Dennis Franchione** says: "We're operating with the slogan 'Start Fast, Finish Strong.' Septembers have been difficult for us, and I'd like to think we'll be better this year so we're not behind the eight ball."

LOBO DATA

Coach: Dennis Franchione (14-20, 3 years; 94-39-2 overall, 12 years)

1994 record: 5-7 WAC, 4-4/5th

Key losses: Damon Burnett, DT; Charles Butler, CB; Soney Case, QB; Trent Calk, FS; Dan Covarley, LB; Alex Crowder, G; Gavin Pearlman, WR; David Sloan, TE; Nathan Vail, K; Zack Wesley, WR

Starters returning: **Offense** (6): Calvin Allen, G, 6-7/385, Sr.; Ryan Mummett, T, 6-3/288, Sr.; Winslow Oliver, TB, 5-8/173, Sr.; Chris Shelton, FB, 5-10/220, Soph.; Brandon Turner, C, 6-3/292, Jr.; Matt Tyner, T, 6-3/285, Soph. **Defense** (7): Ari Celestine, CB, 5-9/192, Sr.; Blake Irwin, LB, 6-0/211, Soph.; Daniel Johnson, LB, 5-11/216, Jr.; Brett Luckinger, NT, 6-1/261, Soph.; Terrence Sharper, CB, 5-9/176, Sr.; Roston Thomas, LB, 6-4/228, Sr.; John Wingate, E, 6-3/259, Soph.

Kickers: None

Other key returnees: Billy Austin, FS, Soph.; Buddy Billingsley, DE, Jr.; Andy Gleason, G, Jr.; Chris Griffin, TE, Sr.; Scott McGarrahan, SS, Soph.; Steve Pagador, WR, Sr.; Scott Peterson, QB, Sr.; Levi Roquemore, LB, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Oliver (138 att., 706 yds., 8 TD); Passing: Peterson (2 att., 2 comp., 0 INT, 0 TD, 20 yds.); Receiving: Pagador (21 rec., 428 yds., 0 TD); Tackler: Irwin (131); Sackler: Wingate (6).

Top newcomers: Larry Brown, WR, Jr. (JC); Anthony Coleman, WR, Fr. (RS); Chili Davis, CB, Jr. (JC); Brad Freeman, CB, Jr. (JC); Steve Malorson, DL, Jr. (JC); Bert Martin, WR, Soph. (JC); Jamie Oliver, WR, Jr. (JC); Mike Ross, K, Fr. (RS).

Site: Albuquerque. **Stadium:** University Stadium (31,218).

Last league title won: 1964

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Northern Arizona	Oct. 21 —at Colorado St.
Sept. 16 —Utah	Oct. 28 —Texas Tech
Sept. 23 —New Mexico State	Nov. 4 —at San Diego St.
Sept. 30 —Air Force	Nov. 11 —Brigham Young
Oct. 7 —at Fresno State	Nov. 18 —at Texas-El Paso
Oct. 14 —Hawaii	

B. UTAH

Offensive strengths: On a team with only seven returning starters overall, the presence of tight end/slotback Henry Lusk is a brightener. Lusk missed last season with a broken shoulder blade after winning All-WAC honors in 1993. Receivers Kevin Dyson, Rick Tucker and Derrick Martson have been solid, if sometimes forgotten, contributors.



Utah welcomes back Henry Lusk, who missed last season with a broken shoulder blade.

Offensive weaknesses: Mike McCoy (28 touchdown passes) and Charlie Brown (839 yards rushing) are among the departed. Inexperience figures to take its toll. With only right tackle Chris Rae returning on the line, the winner of the Utes' quarterback scramble might just want to remember that word: scramble.

Defensive strengths: The Utes pride themselves on team speed, and they'll likely attack with gusto again. The Kaufusi brothers, Jeff and Henry, anchor the line.

Defensive weaknesses: Lineman Luther Elliss, a first-round NFL draft choice, is gone, as are six other starters.

Special teams: Dan Pulsipher returns after making 8 of 16 field-goal attempts last season, but the Utes need a new punter. Kick coverage is solid.

Key to success: Utah must rebuild after a marvelous 1994 season, but the defensive schemes are solid enough to keep the Utes competitive. The No. 1 priority is quarterback, where Brandon Jones is the most experienced operative (a mere six pass attempts last year).

Outlook: The schedule isn't a lot of fun, with opening games against Oregon and Stanford. But then, who says anything is easy the year after the best season (11 victories, including a Freedom Bowl triumph) in recent memory? Utah nevertheless has attained an impressive talent level under Coach Ron McBride and should make the trip back to the mountaintop before too long. **Coach Ron McBride** says: "It's a new team, very young, and we're going to have to develop. But we have to realize last year's over. We've got a lot of work to do."

UTES DATA

Coach: Ron McBride (34-26, 5 years)

1994 record: 10-2 (beat Arizona in Freedom Bowl) WAC, 6-2/2nd

Key losses: Ernest Boyd, SS; Anthony Brown, OT; Charlie Brown, RB; Deron Claiborne, WR; Luther Elliss, DT; Edwin Garrette, CB; Rob Hamilton, FB; Jason Jones, P; Kareem Leary, CB; Roy Ma'alala, G; Curtis Marsh, WR; Mike McCoy, QB; Bronzell Miller, DE; Kameela Neves, G; Mark Raxford, LB; Lance Scott, C; Derrick Stapley, LB.

Starters returning: **Offense** (2): Chris Rae, T, 6-3/292, Sr.; Rick Tucker, TE, 6-2/252, Sr. **Defense** (4): Henry Kaufusi, T, 6-2/275, Sr.; Jeff Kaufusi, E, 6-6/244, Sr.; Jeff Kirkman, DB, 6-2/213, Sr.; Harold Lusk, FS, 5-11/189, Jr. **Kickers** (1): Dan Pulsipher, K, 6-1/177, Jr.

Other key returnees: Cal Beck, DB/KR, Soph.; Kevin Dyson, WR, Soph.; Toole Fa'amoo, DT, Sr. (RS/injury); Juan Johnson, RB, Soph.; Brandon Jones, QB, Jr.; Clarence Lawson, DB, Soph.; Henry Lusk, TE/WR/FB, Sr. (RS/shoulder); Derrick Martson, TE, Sr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Johnson (61 att., 311 yds., 5 TD); Passing: Jones (6 att., 2 comp., 0 INT, 0 TD, 26 yds.); Receiving: Dyson (24 rec., 339 yds., 2 TD); Tackler: Harold Lusk (69); Sackler: Kaufusi (5).

Top newcomers: Omar Bacon, RB, Fr.; Teneid Ethridge, RB, Soph. (Prop 48); Chad Folk, C, Jr. (JC); Chris Ma'alala, FB, Fr.; Kautal Olevao, LB, Fr.; Vince Tauanuu, DT, Jr. (JC).

Site: Salt Lake City. **Stadium:** Rice Stadium (32,500).

Last league title won: None

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Oregon	Oct. 14 —Colorado State
Sept. 9 —Stanford	Oct. 21 —Air Force
Sept. 16 —at New Mexico	Oct. 28 —Utah State
Sept. 23 —Fresno State	Nov. 4 —at Wyoming
Sept. 30 —at Texas-El Paso	Nov. 18 —at Brigham Young
Oct. 7 —San Diego State	

B. HAWAII

Offensive strengths: This team gave up the football 40 times last season (20 fumbles, 20 interceptions). If that statistic does not improve, do strengths really matter?



Thanks to players like linebacker Joe Shaw, Hawaii again will feature a strong defense.

Tupu Ahualu is a positive, though, after averaging nearly five yards per rush in 1994.

Offensive weaknesses: There is no budding star at quarterback, where Hawaii used four players last year. All are back, which may or may not be a comfort.

Defensive strengths: Six starters return, including rugged tackle George Noga and his six sacks. Noga gets plenty of help from Rod York (seven sacks), making for an active, fairly experienced line that usually is a threat to opponents' quarterbacks—especially the slow-footed variety. Linebacker Jeff Bredy and rover Agenhart Ellis are quality players.

Defensive weaknesses: Hawaii needs a good nose guard, but there is no Noga-type on hand. Cornerback is another concern. The defensive staff is almost all new, with holdover and assistant head coach George Lumpkin taking over as coordinator.

Special teams: Matt Harding, who returns kicks and also blocks them (nine in three years), is a major plus. Safety Robby Blakeney inherits the punting chores—he was a prep standout while handling those duties—and kicker Carlton Oswalt returns after making 7 of 12 field-goal attempts, including a 51-yarder.

Key to success: Hawaii must rid itself of the turnover fetish and find someone to step forward at quarterback and run the offense with verve. Otherwise, the defense is looking at another long, long season.

Outlook: The Rainbow Warriors' faithful comforts itself with this fact: The last time Hawaii finished below .500 (in 1991), it won the WAC championship the next year. A repeat of that scenario is unlikely.

Coach Bob Wagner says: "We're gonna be better. We're going to be improved. How much? That's why you write articles."

HAWAIIAN HAWAII DATA

Coach: Bob Wagner (54-41-3, 8 years)

1994 record: 3-8-1 WAC, 0-6/10th

Key losses: Carlos Anderson, CB; Nalei Cox, NG; Jude Dreesbach, OT; Junior Faavae, LB; Kendall Goo, G; Kelly McGill, C; Zac Odum, CB; Ed Ripley, NG; Coby Stewart, LB; John Veneri, WR/RB

Starters returning: **Offense** (4): Tupu Ahualu, RB, 6-0/220, Sr.; Phil Cunningham, WR/RB, 6-1/204, Sr.; Clint Kuboyama, WR, 5-11/181, Sr.; Shane Oliveira, C, 6-2/262, Soph.

Defense (6): Jeff Brady LB, 6-1/236, Sr.; Agonhart Ellis, DB, 5-11/200, Sr.; Demitres (Doe) Henderson, SS, 5-8/170, Sr.; George Hoga, T, 6-2/244, Sr.; Jason Ross, FS, 6-4/211, Jr.; Rod York, T, 5-10/259, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Carlton Oswalt, K, 5-10/184, Jr.

Other key returnees: Punahou Aina, LB, Soph., Robby Bakkeny, SS, Sr.; Glenn Freitas, QB, Jr.; Rodney Glover, QB, Sr.; John Hao, QB, Sr.; Matt Harding, WR, Sr.; Danny Katoa, LB, Sr.; Brannon Kennedy, WR, Sr.; Joe Shaw, LB, Sr.; Matt Tufono, DL, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Aiuahu (129 att., 638 yds., 3 TD); Passing: Hao (152 att., 86 comp., 6 INT, 6 TD, 1,181 yds.); Receiving: Kuboyama (27 rec., 315 yds., 2 TD); Tackler: Ross (85); Sackler: York (7)

Top newcomers: Brendyn Agbayani, WR/DB, Fr. (RS); Michael Anderson, DL, Fr. (RS); Jerry Laano, DL, Soph. (Prop 48); George Omellas, WR/DB, Fr.; Robert Robinson, DB, Soph. (Prop 48); Bobby Singh, OL, Soph. (Prop 48); Niko Vitale, SS, Jr. (JC)

Site: Honolulu **Stadium:** Aloha Stadium (50,000)

Last league title won: 1992.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Texas	Oct. 28 —at Brigham Young
Sept. 16 —at Wyoming	Nov. 4 —Fresno State
Sept. 23 —Texas-El Paso	Nov. 11 —at Colorado St.
Sept. 30 —at UNLV	Nov. 18 —San Diego St.
Oct. 14 —at New Mexico	Nov. 25 —Air Force
Oct. 21 —Central Florida	Dec. 2 —Oklahoma St.

10. TEXAS-EL PASO

Offensive strengths: Running back Toraino Singleton runs through defenders like a tornado in a trailer park. Singleton broke his wrist in the spring—he's not indestructible, after all—but he should be healthy come September.

Offensive weaknesses: Texas-El Paso's quarterbacks are inexperienced and there's not a lot up front, save for senior guard

Jesse Villareal. Third-and-long might be a horror story. Any offensive punch besides Singleton would be welcomed, because the Miners scored only 19.7 points per game last year. Senior Alvin Black, who caught 27 passes, heads a group of receivers not particularly well-known or well-tested.

Defensive strengths: UTEP is deeper than it has been in several years, and 5-foot-9 middle linebacker Michael Comer can play. The Miners' secondary has potential standouts in safety David Terrell and cornerback Raymond Lindholm.

Defensive weaknesses: The pass rush is uncertain at best. In this league, that's a liability that can't be covered up. Much will depend upon how well UTEP's outside linebackers, Aaron Plante and Todd Turner, perform.

Special teams: Marshall Young was a so-so 10 of 18 on field-goal attempts, yet he made All-WAC. Young also handles the punting. Kickoff returner Cedric Johnson is a threat. **Key to success:** If UTEP can keep Singleton healthy, it has a shot to win every now and then.

Outlook: Inexperienced people at key positions, including quarterback. A bleak tradition. Those factors are difficult—if not impossible—to overcome, no matter how hard a team plays. Too bad, because the fans who trek to the Miners' Sun Bowl stadium are among the most patient and loyal in the country. Then again, they have to be.

Coach Charlie Bailey says: "I think we've got a chance to get better. Last year, we did get

better. I hope we can carry that over into this year. We want to get where we can line up and play with the better teams in our conference."

WINDUP DATA

Coach: Charlie Bailey (3-7-1, 1 year; 15-27-3 overall, 4 years)

1994 record: 3-7-1 WAC 1-6-1/9th

Key losses: Danny Baker, C; Blayne Booth, G; Larry Burton, LB; Carl Commer, DT; Larry Davis, DT; Kevin Goolsby, CB; Shawn Gray, QB; Bruce Jackson, LB; Omar Lowrance, OT; Demetrius Maxie, DE; J.J. Rowlett, FL; Arnold Valtas, OT; Brian Yellmore, SS

Starters returning **Offense (5):** Alvin Black, FL, 6-2/176, Sr.; Jason Blair, TE, 6-5/260, Jr.; Terrance Johnson, FB, 5-11/215, Jr.; Toraino Singleton, TB, 6-3/230, Sr.; Jesse Villareal, G, 6-2/293. **Defense (4):** Michael Comer, LB, 5-9/253, Jr.; Best Ihegborow, E, 6-2/247, Jr.; Raymond Lindholm, CB, 5-8/176, Sr.; David Terrell, FS, 6-2/172, Soph

Kickers (1): Marshall Young, KP, 5-10/189. **Other key returnees:** Keith Boyd, C, Jr.; Andre Brittingham, SE, Sr.; Brandon Cumbie, G, Soph.; Jaryl Curtis, OT, Sr.; Cedric Johnson, RB/KR, Jr.; Aaron Plante, LB, Sr.; Todd Turner, LB, Soph.; Anwar White, OT, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Singleton (289 att., 1,277 yds., 11 TD); Passing: None.; Receiving: Black, 27 rec., 514 yds., 3 TD; Tackler: Comer (142); Sackler: Ihegborow (2).

Top newcomers: Ray Baila, SE, Jr. (JC); Matt Hickl, QB, Fr. (RS); Jon Olsen, P/K, Jr. (JC); John Rayborn, QB, Fr. (RS); Jesus Rientena, OT, Jr. (JC)

Site: El Paso, Texas **Stadium:** Sun Bowl (52,000)

Last league title won: None

WINDUP

Sept. 2 —at New Mexico St.	Oct. 14 —Tulsa
Sept. 9 —at Arizona State	Oct. 21 —Wyoming
Sept. 16 —Valdosta State	Oct. 28 —San Diego St.
Sept. 23 —at Hawaii	Nov. 4 —at Colorado St.
Sept. 30 —Utah	Nov. 11 —at Fresno State
Oct. 7 —at Air Force	Nov. 18 —New Mexico

Phill Casaus is a staff writer for the Albuquerque Journal.

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SCOUTING THE WESTERN ATHLETIC

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive backfield	Air Force
Best wide receivers	Fresno State
Best offensive line	New Mexico
Best defensive line	Colorado State
Best linebackers	Brigham Young
Best secondary	Colorado State
Best special teams	Hawaii
Hardest hitter	Sean Moran, DE, Colorado State
Best backup quarterback	Jim Arnesen, Fresno State
Best pro prospect	Toraino Singleton, RB, Texas-El Paso
Best stadium	Falcon Stadium, Air Force
Best rivalry	BYU-Hawaii

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. Fresno State (Best recruit WR Greg Minnifield). Aside from its load of junior college insta-help, the Bulldogs also landed highly regarded freshman defensive back Jua Jackson.
 2. Brigham Young (DL Byron Fensch)
 3. San Diego State (OL Michael Mariano)
 4. Colorado State (OL DL Julio Alcala)
 5. Utah (RB Omar Bacon)
 6. Wyoming (OL Trion Demos)
 7. New Mexico (QB Brian Messer)
 8. Hawaii (SB George Omeias)
 9. Texas-El Paso (RB Joseph Polk)
- (Air Force doesn't announce its incoming players.)

someone—no matter where the game is played. You do the math.

Bowl bound: BYU will keep its reservation at the bowl table, and Colorado State figures to be back. Fresno State will rebound and win a berth. Will Air Force get stiffed again? Probably, unless the Pentagon holds a bowl game in Haiti.

Biggest shoes to fill: New Mexico quarterback Stoney Case's. They'll never forget Case in Albuquerque, but Scott Peterson will try to give a performance worth remembering. The same goes for junior-college product Steve Sarkisian at BYU. Sarkisian takes over for John Walsh, who threw 57 touchdown passes in the past two seasons.

Most overrated player: No one in the no-name WAC has gotten enough attention to be overrated. Last year's marquee talent is gone, gone, gone.

Most underrated player: Colorado State linebacker Garrett Sand. Somehow, he's always around the ball. "What I'm hoping for now (from Sand) is some consistency," Rams Coach Sonny Lubick said. "He could be a very good player."

Best head coach: LaVell Edwards, BYU. Others coaches come and go, but only Edwards' program has withstood the test of time.

Best assistant coaches: Let's see. The six coaches with the most tenure on Edwards' staff have spent 22, 18, 15, 14, 13 and 10 years in Provo. Are these guys coaches or Supreme Court justices? They must be doing something right, that's for sure.

Coach on the hot seat: Bob Wagner, Hawaii. Wagner has a three-year rollover on his contract and has become a fixture

on the Rock, but the Rainbow Warriors weren't much fun to watch last year. The outlook isn't very promising, either.

Best bets: UTEP's Toraino Singleton will rush for more than 1,000 yards this year.

... Colorado State's Lubick, who took himself out of the coaching derby at Miami, will get more feelers. ... The same goes for New Mexico's Franchione, who dabbled in the Oklahoma State coaching search. ... Utah tight end Henry Lusk and his defensive back brother, Harold, will earn postseason honors. ... Look for Fresno State Coach Jim Sweeney and new Bulldogs basketball Coach Jerry Tarkanian to become the most quotable 1-2 punch in the WAC. But Sweeney doesn't like to be thought of as half of a Sunshine Boys combination. "As far as I'm concerned, there's nothing funny about either one of us," Sweeney said. "We talk about the same things. We talk about intensity. I do know he's going to help us a lot."

Odds and ends: The last time New Mexico went to a bowl game was in December 1961—the dear, departed Aviation Bowl in Dayton, Ohio. ... BYU linebacker Stan Raass contributed to a painful Notre Dame season in 1994, inflicting a concussion on Fighting Irish quarterback Ron Powlus during the Cougars' 21-14 victory. ... Lyrically named UTEP defensive end Phillip Hippolyte was raised on the island of St. Lucia in the Caribbean and played rugby, not football, until arriving in the United States. ... Recruiting isn't much fun, but how would you like the "chore" of combing the Hawaiian Islands for talent? Utah got four high school players from Aloha land. ... This is the first time in four years that Air Force hasn't had a new starting quarterback to begin the season. ... Fresno State's Sweeney was awarded another contract extension, an agreement that runs through 2000. He'll be 70 when the deal concludes.

—PHILL CASAUS

Ascending: Air Force. If the bowl system made any sense, the Falcons would have seen postseason action last year. They won eight of their last nine games and, once again, proved they can light up scoreboards at will.

Descending: Utah. The Utes were laid low by graduation. There's talent available, thanks to a succession of solid recruiting years, but finding a quarterback to replace Mike McCoy is a monumental task.

Nightmare schedule: Air Force. The Falcons' run for a title will be decided before the leaves turn gold in Colorado Springs. Air Force must play itself into—or out of—the conference chase in the first three weeks of the season with games against Brigham Young, Wyoming and Colorado State. Granted, they're all home games, but the Falcons also travel to Utah, Fresno State and New Mexico. Oh, yes, Notre Dame also is on the docket (at Falcon Stadium).

Dream schedule: For once, New Mexico qualifies. The Lobos have spent the past 20 years on the road for non-conference games against the likes of Nebraska, Florida, Tennessee and Texas. This season, though, the Lobos open with four home games, including dates with Northern Arizona and New Mexico State. After years on the "nightmare" side of the fence, Coach Dennis Franchione considers seven home games "strategic scheduling."

Best matchup of the year: BYU at Fresno State, November 25. In the finest tradition of the WAC's 51-49 defensive struggles, welcome to the Fresno 500. Last offense on the field wins. Gentlemen, start your offenses.

Worst matchup of the year: Central Florida at Hawaii, October 21. Brought to you by the Weather Channel.

Shocker of the year: Texas-El Paso over San Diego State, October 28. The Miners always make someone miserable in the Sun Bowl. The Aztecs always overlook



Look for quarterback Beau Morgan to again lead a high-flying Air Force attack.



Colorado State defensive end Sean Moran is the hardest hitter in the WAC.

1. BOWLING GREEN

Offensive strengths: Ryan Henry is the class of the conference at quarterback and is poised to lead the Falcons on a strong title run. Keylan Cates and Courtney Davis form a potent tandem at tailback, while Darius Card and Dwaylon Alexander provide versatility at fullback. Tackle Chad Bukey and tight end Trevor Stover make the offensive line potentially one of the best in recent school history.

Offensive weaknesses: There's only one, but it's a glaring one: receivers. Jamaine Williams had just one catch last season in a backup role, and no other receiver on this year's team caught a pass in 1994.

Defensive strengths: Bowling Green has been tough to score on in the past and this year should be no different. The strength is at linebacker, where Jason Woullard should blossom after spending the past two years in the shadow of MAC Defensive Player of the Year Vince Palko.

Defensive weaknesses: The middle of the secondary, where a free safety is the greatest need, is suspect.

Special teams: Derek Schorejs, who saw some action as a kicker two years ago, gets a chance at the full-time job this year. Punter Andy Tracy is an outstanding baseball player and could pursue that sport instead.

Keys to success: Henry must find a dependable target or two to keep the passing game one of the team's strong suits. The kicking game needs to be beefed up, too, and the Falcons are placing more emphasis on it.

Outlook: Bowling Green has been the MAC's best team each of the past four years but hasn't won the league title since 1992. The Falcons have what it takes—great offensive line, strong defense and top quarterback—to win it this year.

Coach Gary Blackney says: "I think we can pick up where we left off offensively if we can find some wide receivers. Defensively, we'll be better than we were last year."

FALCONS DATA

Coach: Gary Blackney (38-8-2 overall, 4 years)
1994 record: 9-2 MAC 7-1/2nd

Key losses: Curtis Collins, DT Willie Gibson, LB Bob Johnson, G George Johnson, CB Brian Leaver, K Rameir Martin, FL, Vince Palko, LB, Jason Peters, OT, Ronnie Reed, SE Steve Rodriguez, FS

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Cal Bowers, C, 6-2/270, Sr., Chad Bukey T, 6-4/270, Sr.; Darius Card, FB, 5-10/225, Sr.; Courtney Davis, TB, 5-7/180, Jr.; Shawn George, G, 6-4/275, Jr.; Ryan Henry, QB, 6-0/195, Sr.; Trevor Stover, TE, 6-4/240, Sr. **Defense (7):** Chioke Bradley, SS, 5-11/180, Soph.; Dave Bruhowzko, NG, 6-4/230, Jr.; Chris Burton, LB, 6-0/255, Soph.; Greg Cepek, E, 6-4/240, Sr.; Tony Everhart, CB, 5-11/180, Jr.; Kevin O'Neill, LB, 6-1/200, Soph.; Jason Woullard, LB, 6-0/220, Sr. **Kicker (1):** Andy Tracy, P, 6-2/205, Sr.

Other key returnees: Dwaylon Alexander, FB, Sr., Todd Bush, LB, Soph., Keylan Cates, TB, Jr., Mark Dunaway, QB/WR, Jr., Dwayne Hairston, FS, Soph., Sam Henke, OT, Soph., Derek Schorejs, K, Sr., Damon Smith, DT, Jr.; Jamaine Williams, DB/WR, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Cates (184 att., 803 yds., 10 TD); Passing: Henry (293 att., 174 comp., 11 INT 25 TD, 2,368 yds.); Receiving: Card (32 rec., 281 yds., 1 TD); Tackler: Woullard (86); Sackler: Cepek (4)

Top newcomers: Monty Bryce, FS, Fr. (RS); Ette James, TE, Fr. (RS); Adam Lige, LB, Fr. (RS); Steve Sheets, C, Jr. (transfer/Ohio State); Eric Starks, WR, Jr. (transfer/Ohio State); Willie Watson, DL, Soph. (Prop 48)

Site: Bowling Green, Ohio. **Stadium:** Doyt Perry Stadium (30,599)

Last league title won: 1992

MID-AMERICAN

Conference Rank: 9

By DOUG ZALESKI

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. BOWLING GREEN
2. WESTERN MICHIGAN
3. TOLEDO
4. EASTERN MICHIGAN
5. BALL STATE
6. MIAMI OF OHIO
7. CENTRAL MICHIGAN
8. KENT
9. AKRON
10. OHIO UNIVERSITY



Ryan Henry, the MAC's premier quarterback, should guide Bowling Green to the league title.

BY SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Louisiana Tech	Oct. 14 —at Ball State
Sept. 9 —at Missouri	Oct. 21 —Toledo
Sept. 16 —Akron	Oct. 28 —at W. Michigan
Sept. 23 —at Central Michigan	Nov. 4 —Ohio University
Sept. 30 —at Temple	Nov. 11 —at Kent
Oct. 7 —Miami of Ohio	

2. WESTERN MICHIGAN

Offensive strengths: Tailback Jim Vackaro is a multiple threat as a rusher, pass receiver and kick returner. Quarterback Jay McDonagh led the MAC in total offense last season.

Offensive weaknesses: McDonagh's top receiving targets are gone, and no returning receiver caught more than three passes in '94. The line could be shaky as only one player, guard Matt Riordan, returns in a starting role.

Defensive strengths: Tackle Dion Powell presents problems for opposing offenses and is an inspirational leader to his teammates. Dean Polce is ready to step into the limelight at linebacker. The Broncos feast on third-down situations.

Defensive weaknesses: Somebody needs to step up as a momentum-breaker and big-play maker. Powell showed last year he is capable, but replacements are needed for the graduated Tony Tiefenbach and Peter Tuffo.

Special teams: If the Broncos are to win the league, big improvement is needed here. They were one of the poorest teams in the league in punt returns and net punting. But Kevin Knope is a top kicker.

Keys to success: The defense must fulfill its promise. The offense is solid, but it alone can't carry this team.

Outlook: The Broncos have been close the past two years, but they haven't been able to deliver the knockout punch. They received an assist from the schedule-maker this season as several easier opponents will serve as tuneups before a key clash at home against Bowling Green on October 28.

Coach Al Molde says: "The way our (experienced) defense plays early in the season will be critical while our offensive personnel settles in. Those early-season games will be real important in that regard."

BRONCOS DATA

Coach: Al Molde (53-34-2, 8 years; 151-87-8 overall, 23 years)
1994 record: 7-4 MAC 5-3/3rd

Key losses: Joel Fredrickson, C, Rufus Hams, LB, Larry Johnson, SE, Stewart Mas, G, Tom Natten, OT, Harry Petaway, OT, Tony Tiefenbach, DE, Bronson Trebb, TE, Peter Tuffo, LB, Marcus Wagstaff, CB, Andre Wallace, FL

Starters returning: **Offense (4):** Derek Loft, FB, 6-0/248, Sr. Jay McDonagh, QB, 6-0/193, Sr., Matt Riordan, G, 6-3/270, Sr., Jim Vackaro, TB, 5-9/186, Sr. **Defense (7):** Eric Boersma, E, 6-3/233, Jr., Rick Lucas, LB, 6-1/207, Soph., Darrell Mitchell, S, 5-11/183, Soph., Tristan Moss, CB, 6-0/175, Sr., Nate Palmer, T, 5-11/230, Soph., Dean Polce, LB, 6-1/203, Jr., Dion Powell, T, 6-4/268, Sr. **Kicker (1):** Kevin Knope, K, 6-1/165, Sr.

Other key returnees: Bob Mendoza, OT, Sr., Jon Pryor, LB, Soph., Marvin Reynolds, S, Sr., Eric San, FB, Sr.; Matt Sikora, DT, Sr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Vackaro (187 att., 910 yds., 8 TD); Passing: McDonagh (293 att., 172 comp., 12 INT 16 TD, 2,136 yds.); Receiving: Vackaro (41 rec., 415 yds., 2 TD); Tackler: Mitchell (65); Sackler: Powell (6)

Top newcomers: Jason Cavanaugh, OT, Fr. (RS); Dan Falcon, DT, Fr. (RS); J.K. Haselnie, OT, Fr. (RS); Tony Knox, WR, Jr. (JC)

Site: Kalamazoo, Mich. **Stadium:** Waldo Stadium (30,000)

Last league title won: 1988

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Weber State	Oct. 14 —at Ohio University
Sept. 9 —at Indiana	Oct. 21 —at Auburn
Sept. 14 —Toledo	Oct. 28 —Bowling Green
Sept. 23 —at Ball State	Nov. 11 —at E. Michigan
Sept. 30 —at Kent	Nov. 18 —Central Michigan
Oct. 7 —Akron	

Continued

PRESEASON ALL-MID-AMERICAN TEAM

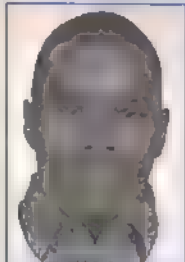
PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



RYAN HENRY
QB, Bowling Green

DEFENSE



JOHNNIE WILLIAMS
LB, Miami

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE: Jerome Adams, RB, Eastern Michigan
DEFENSE: Derek Burnette, LB, Eastern Michigan

COACH OF THE YEAR

Gary Blackney, Bowling Green

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	STEVE CLAY, Eastern Michigan	5-5/155	Sr
WR	SCOTT BRUNSWICK, Toledo	6-2/193	Sr
TE	TREVOR STOVER, Bowling Green	6-4/240	Sr
T	CHAD BLUKEY, Bowling Green	6-4/270	Sr
T	KEVIN MONTGOMERY, Toledo	6-4/275	Sr
G	BARRY STOKES, Eastern Michigan	6-4/285	Sr
G	CAL BOWERS, Bowling Green	6-2/270	Sr
C	PETE STONE, Toledo	6-1/260	Sr
QB	RYAN HENRY, Bowling Green	6-0/195	Sr
RB	MICHAEL BLAIR, Ball State	5-11/229	Jr
RB	JIM VACKARO, Western Michigan	5-9/186	Sr

DEFENSE

T	DION POWELL, Western Michigan	6-4/268	Sr
T	JERMAINE DANIELS, Ball State	6-1/243	Sr
E	GREG CEPEK, Bowling Green	6-4/240	Sr
LB	DEAN POLCE, Western Michigan	6-1/203	Jr
LB	DEE OSBORNE, Miami	6-2/200	Jr
LB	JOHN E. WILLIAMS, Miami	6-0/225	Sr
LB	AR STOTLEWILSON, Toledo	6-0/205	Sr
CB	JAMAL BELT, Toledo	5-8/185	Sr
CB	TRISTAN MOSS, Western Michigan	6-0/175	Sr
S	QUINCY WRIGHT, Central Michigan	6-1/190	Jr
S	CORY GILLARD, Ball State	6-1/198	Jr

SPECIALISTS

K	KEVIN KNOPE, Western Michigan	6-1/165	Sr
P	BRAD MAYNARD, Ball State	6-1/175	Jr
KR	STEVE CLAY, Eastern Michigan	5-5/155	Sr

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	ERIC HENDERSON, Miami	5-8/175	Sr
WR	BRIAN GREENE, Eastern Michigan	6-3/215	Sr
TE	RYAN WHEATLEY, Eastern Michigan	6-2/250	Jr
T	SCOTT REHBERG, Central Michigan	6-8/320	Jr
T	TONY ROUSH, Ball State	6-2/295	Jr
G	GENE GLORY, Miami	6-3/272	Sr
G	MATT RORDAN, Western Michigan	6-3/270	Sr
C	BROCK GUERRERREZ, Central Michigan	6-4/290	Sr
QB	JAY McDONAGH, Western Michigan	6-0/193	Jr
RB	WASEAN TAIT, Toledo	5-8/175	Sr
RB	DELANE McCULLOUGH, Miami	5-11/190	Sr

DEFENSE

T	KEVIN KWATKOWSKI, Eastern Michigan	6-4/250	Jr
T	MARIO DANIEL, Ohio University	6-1/290	Sr
E	SYMEON FLOYD, Akron	6-1/240	Jr
LB	REESE McCASKEY, Eastern Michigan	6-3/240	Sr
LB	JABBAR THOMPSON, Ohio University	6-0/220	Sr
LB	BUBBA HESTER, Central Michigan	6-0/230	Jr
LB	HOWARD SIMMS, Ball State	6-1/225	Soph.
CB	JAM E. TAYLOR, Miami	5-9/170	Soph.
CB	TONY EVERHART, Bowling Green	5-11/180	Jr
S	DAMSO JOHNSON, Ohio University	6-0/205	Sr
S	CHIOKE BRADLEY, Bowling Green	5-11/190	Soph.

SPECIALISTS

K	CHAD SEITZ, Miami	5-8/160	Sr
P	TY GRIFFIN, Toledo	6-1/194	Jr
KR	HANK RAY, Ohio University	5-11/175	Jr

3. TOLEDO

Offensive strengths: Ryan Huzjak hasn't received the same recognition as other quarterbacks in this conference, but he is a solid performer who makes big plays. Tailback Wasean Tait has more speed and quickness than a typical MAC running back. H-back Scott Brunswick might have the best hands in the league.

Offensive weaknesses: The Rockets have to find a way to replace the graduation loss of two outstanding starting guards. Quality wide receivers are lacking, too.

Defensive strengths: Cornerback Jamal Belt is solid against the run and also was among the league leaders in interceptions last year. Outside linebacker Aristotle Wilson is a converted tailback with 4.4 speed who gets to the ball quickly.

Defensive weaknesses: The Rockets, who ranked 15th in the nation in total defense as recently as 1992, slipped all the way to eighth in the MAC last season. They ranked next-to-last in both points allowed and passing yards against. The defense must make more big plays (i.e., get turnovers).

Special teams: The key areas—kickoff and punt returns, net punting—all ranked in the second division of the league last year. Kicker Ryan Klaer was adequate as a freshman but needs to improve his leg strength. **Keys to success:** Toledo must find a way to stop opposing offenses. The Rockets are scrapping their stunt 4-3 defense for a new scheme that won't be announced until the season begins.

Outlook: Toledo broke 14 school records last season and has many key offensive players back. A telling statistic was scoring

average: The Rockets' scoring has increased from 17.0 in 1991 to 32.0 last season. They must keep up that pace to have a chance at winning the league.

Coach Gary Pinkel says: "I certainly believe in what we are doing, but for whatever reason it has taken longer to produce the results I expect."

ROCKETS DATA

Coach: Gary Pinkel (23-19-2, 4 years)

1994 record: 6-4-1 MAC: 4-3-1/6th

Key losses: Tom Boyd, SE; Chadd Dehn, G, Craig Donaldson, DT; Casey McBeth, TB; Bo Reichart, DE; Charlie Webb, G; Dan Whitsel, OT

Starters returning: Offense (7): Scott Brunswick, HB, 6-2/193, Sr; Erik Enger, FB, 5-10/197, Sr; Ryan Huzjak, QB, 6-2/193, Jr; Kevin Montgomery, T, 6-4/275, Sr; Steve Rost, TE,



Toledo's Wasean Tait has more speed and quickness than a typical MAC tailback.

6-3/238, Sr; James Spriggs, RB, 5-10/170, Jr; Pete Stone, C, 6-1/260, Sr. **Defense (9):** Ernie Baskin, E, 6-4/253, Sr.; Jamal Belt, CB, 5-8/185, Sr.; Craig Dues, LB, 6-0/188, Jr.; Steve Haynes, E, 6-3/235, Sr.; Mark Herron, FS, 6-0/173, Jr.; Brent Parkhill, LB, 6-3/235, Sr.; Sylvester Patton, FS, 5-9/175, Soph.; Matt Resen, T, 6-1/264, Jr.; Anstole Wilson, LB, 6-0/205, Sr. **Kickers (2):** Ty Grude, P, 6-1/194, Jr.; Ryan Klaer, K, 6-1/190, Soph.

Other key returnees: Jerry Christensen, G, Sr.; Roman Davis, WR, Soph.; Terry Foster, WR, Soph. (RS/academics); Jame Johnson, LB, Jr.; John Pollingham, DT, Sr.; Jason Richards, DT, Soph.; Marc Stafford, CB, Jr.; Wasean Tait, TB, Jr. **Returning statistical leaders:** Rushing: Tait (158 att., 917 yds., 12 TD); Passing: Huzjak (289 att., 170 comp., 8 INT, 17 TD, 1,928 yds.); Receiving: Brunswick (44 rec., 572 yds., TD); Tackler: Parkhill (89); Sackler: Baskin (5).

Top newcomers: Gregg King, LB, Fr. (RS); Brock Kretzborg, WR, Fr. (RS); Andy Osborne, LB, Jr. (JC); Chuck Wilson, G, Fr. (RS).

Site: Toledo, Ohio. **Stadium:** Glass Bowl (26,248)

Last league title won: 1990

RECORDS

Sept. 9 —East Tennessee St.	Oct. 21 —at Bowling Green
Sept. 14 —at W. Michigan	Oct. 28 —E. Michigan
Sept. 23 —at Nevada	Nov. 4 —at C. Michigan
Sept. 30 —at Cincinnati	Nov. 11 —Akron
Oct. 7 —Ball State	Nov. 18 —Ohio University
Oct. 14 —at Miami of Ohio	

4. EASTERN MICHIGAN

Offensive strengths: Wide receiver Steve Clay is as explosive as he is diminutive (5-foot-5). Tight end Ryan Wheatley isn't flashy, but he does a solid job in helping open holes for the running game.

Offensive weaknesses: The Eagles are looking for more consistency from quarterback Michael Armour, whose 10 touchdown passes last year were offset by 13 interceptions. Charlie Batch could emerge as the starter. Top 1994 rusher Stephen Whitfield (1,232 yards) is gone, and none of the returnees rushed for more than 184 yards last year.

Defensive strengths: Middle linebacker Reese McCaskill hasn't missed a start in three seasons and is fifth in school history with 331 tackles. Tackle Kevin Kwiatkowski anchors the line. Cornerback Maurice Reed, who started every game and had three interceptions in 1993, will return after missing last year because of a knee injury.

Defensive weaknesses: The Eagles were too soft at key times and much too easy to score against in '94. They gave up 34 touchdowns and 15 field goals in 11 games.

Special teams: The elusive Clay led the nation in punt returns last year with an average of 19.9 yards (on 14 returns). It is hoped that finding another kicker will improve Jay Gardziola's punting.

Keys to success: The players must learn new Coach Rick Rasnick's offensive and defensive systems in a hurry. The new coaches weren't too pleased with the shape the players were in when they took over in January.

Outlook: Former coach Ron Cooper did not leave the cupboard bare when he departed for Louisville; Eastern Michigan is a program on the upswing. The Eagles outscored their opponents 147-88 in winning their last four games, and they're hopeful that stretch of success will serve as a strong foundation for 1995.

Coach Rick Rasnick says: "We have great expectations of winning championships. That's something we worked hard on at Utah (in his previous job as offensive coordinator) and we made it. We want to create the belief that we are the best and go about proving it."

LINEUP DATA

Coach: Rick Rasnick (1st year)

1994 record: 5-6 MAC 5-4/7th

Key losses: Vashone Adams, SS; Wardell Davis, LB; Matt Gillette, G; Dennis Parker, DT; Ron Rice, FS; Stephen Whitfield, TB; Shawn Williams, DE

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Michael Armour QB, 6-1/199, Sr., Steve Clay, FLKR, 5-5/155, Sr.; Bristol Greene, SE, 6-3/215, Sr.; Matt Gregory, C, 6-3/250, Jr.; Frank Rocca, T, 6-6/300, Jr.; Barry Stokes, G, 6-4/285, Sr.; Ryan Wheatley, TE, 6-2/250, Sr. **Defense (5):** Kevin Kwiatkowski, T, 6-4/250, Jr.; James Lowe, E, 6-2/225, Sr.; Reese McCaskill, LB, 6-3/240, Sr.; Rodney Nubin, CB, 5-11/195, Jr.; Eric Thompson, CB, 6-2/190, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Jay Gardziola, P, 6-2/204, Sr.

Other key returnees: Charlie Batch, QB, Jr.; Avery Brown, DE, Soph.; George Douglas, DT, Jr.; Savon Edwards, TB, Soph.; Mike Lightner, DT, Sr.; Cornelius Pearson, LB, Jr.; Ontario Pryor, WR, Jr.; Maurice Reed, CB, Sr. (RS/knee); David Robinson, CB, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Edwards (50 att., 184 yds., 1 TD); Passing: Armour (230 att., 135 comp., 13 INT, 10 TD, 1,628 yds.); Receiving: Clay (48 rec., 588 yds., 6 TD); Tackler: McCaskill (105); Sackler: Kwiatkowski (4).

Top newcomers: Jerome Adams, RB, Fr.; Derek Burnette, LB, Jr. (transfer/Clemson); Marcus Cox, DB, Jr. (JC); Gerald Lewis, DL, Jr. (transfer/Pacific); Jeremy Lingenfelter, LB, Fr.; David Reese, DL, Jr. (transfer/Michigan State); Justin Ventura, K, Jr. (JC)

Site: Ypsilanti, Mich. **Stadium:** Rymearson Stadium (30,200). **Last league title won:** 1987

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Akron	Oct. 21 —at Ball State
Sept. 9 —at Pittsburgh	Oct. 28 —at Toledo
Sept. 16 —UNLV	Nov. 4 —at Miami of Ohio
Sept. 23 —Ohio University	Nov. 11 —W. Michigan
Oct. 7 —Central Michigan	Nov. 18 —at Kent
Oct. 14 —at Syracuse	

5. BALL STATE

Offensive strengths: Tailback Michael Blair is a 1,000-yard rusher-in-waiting and a sure-handed pass catcher out of the backfield. Quarterback Brent Baldwin didn't make a lot of mistakes for someone seeing



Ball State tailback Michael Blair is a 1,000-yard rusher-in-waiting and a sure-handed receiver.

his first regular action last year. His production included a pass efficiency rating of 133.8 (second in the league), 16 touchdown passes and just seven interceptions.

Offensive weaknesses: Part of the Cardinals' success on the ground last year was the outstanding blocking of Blair at fullback. With his move to tailback, a quality fullback has to be found. No receiver on the roster has caught a pass in a game, and two players bidding for starting jobs are former defensive backs.

Defensive strengths: Strong safety Cory Gilliard is a superb run-stopper who has a linebacker's mentality. The return of suspended tackle Jermaine Daniels and the move of Keith McKenzie from linebacker to end should provide some much-needed meat on the line.

Defensive weaknesses: There are lots of holes to shore up here. Ball State was the easiest team in the league to convert third downs against last season, and it ranked last in the MAC in passing defense and ninth in total defense.

Special teams: The Cardinals are the best team in the MAC when it comes to returning and covering kicks. Punter Brad Maynard's 45.5-yard average ranked third in Division I-A and Ball State's net punting average of 42.2 was tops in the country. The Cardinals also led the nation in punt returns (19.9).

Keys to success: Huge strides must be made on defense. The Cardinals simply cannot allow the yards and points they did in '94 and expect to finish in the first division.

Outlook: The Cardinals have a refreshing new attitude, which many times is customary with a change in coaches. New Coach Bill Lynch, Indiana's quarterbacks coach the past two seasons, has them believing they can be a factor in the race, and they might be a surprise team if the defense can carry its own weight.

Coach Bill Lynch says: "People want to watch football that is fun and exciting, and the best way to do that is to go out and get players who can make those plays and make things exciting. That's the type of program I'm going to run."

CARDINALS DATA

Coach: Bill Lynch (1st year, 36-12-3 overall, 5 years)

1994 record: 5-5-1, MAC 5-3-1/5th

Key losses: Chris Asbrock, TE; Andy Berry, OT; Brian Deede, DE; Jacob Goldwire, S; Juan Gorman, WR; Jack Haworth, LB; Kevin Johnson, LB; Scott Kruger, DE; Tony Nibbs, TB; Brian Oliver, WR; Andy Price, TE

Starters returning: **Offense (5):** Brent Baldwin, QB, 6-1/189, Jr.; Michael Blair, TB (moved from FB); 5-11/229, Jr.; Mike Freil, C, 6-2/270, Sr.; Mike Kerrigan, G, 6-0/282, Jr.; Tony Roush, T, 6-2/295, Jr. **Defense (6):** Raphael Ball, CB, 6-0/188, Jr.; Cory Gilliard, S, 6-1/198, Jr.; Aaron Gralak, LB, 6-2/201, Jr.; Grant Gray, CB, 5-11/180, Jr.; Keith McKenzie, E (moved from LB), 6-2/238, Sr.; Donald Rigg, E, 6-2/241, Jr. **Kickers (2):** Brent Locklear, K, 5-11/180, Soph.; Brad Maynard, P, 6-1/175, Jr.

Other key returnees: Raphael Ball, CB; Soph.; Jermaine Daniels, DL, Sr.; Marcus Davis, WR, Jr.; James Greer, DT; Soph.; Keyon Laws, S; Soph.; Hiram Maddox, DT; Soph.; Chris Phemister, FB, Sr.; Howard Simms, LB; Soph.; Berry Thompson, LB; Jr.; Brian Williams, DE, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Blair (157 att., 814 yds., 11 TD); Passing: Baldwin (188 att., 100 comp., 7 INT, 16 TD, 1,342 yds.); Receiving: Blair (10 rec., 133 yds., 2 TD); Tackler: Gilliard (128); Sackler: McKenzie (9)

Top newcomers: Manuel Compas, WR, Fr.; Jake Joseli, QB, Fr.; Waber McDonald, DE, Jr. (JC); Jason Perry, WR, Fr.; Pat Shannon, WR, Fr.; Phil Taylor, WR, Fr.

Site: Muncie, Ind. **Stadium:** Ball State Stadium (18,319)

Last league title won: 1993

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Miami of Ohio	Oct. 14 —Bowling Green
Sept. 9 —Western Illinois	Oct. 21 —E. Michigan
Sept. 16 —at Minnesota	Oct. 28 —at Ohio University
Sept. 23 —Western Michigan	Nov. 4 —at Kent
Sept. 30 —at Purdue	Nov. 11 —C. Michigan
Oct. 7 —at Toledo	

6. MIAMI OF OHIO

Offensive strengths: Tailback Deland McCullough returned to his 1992 MAC Freshman of the Year form by rushing for 1,103 yards last season. He also is a capable receiver. Quarterback Neil Dougherty is injury-prone, but had a respectable '94. The receivers, headed by Eric Henderson, were productive.

Offensive weaknesses: The line will be suspect unless replacements are found for three departed starters, including All-MAC first-team center Jeff Chabot.

Defensive strengths: Miami has one of the most solid groups of linebackers in the conference. Johnnie Williams led the MAC in tackles for loss last year, and he and Dee Osborne logged more than 100 tackles each.

Defensive weaknesses: Miami lost two All-MAC performers on the line and the replacements haven't seen a lot of game action. Ditto for the secondary, where only one starter is back.

Special teams: MAC first-team punter Gary Layton has graduated. Chad Seitz is a dependable kicker who has made 35 of 46 field-goal attempts in three seasons, including a 52-yarder last year. Henderson is a good kickoff returner.

Keys to success: Miami has to avoid getting pounded in its game at Michigan on September 30, as it has back-to-back games against title contenders Bowling Green and Toledo in the following two weeks.

Outlook: The Redskins rolled up 4,115 yards in total offense but averaged just 23.8 points per game. They'll have to find the end zone more often—like they did when they averaged nearly 30 points a game in their last six contests—in order to move up in the standings.

Continued



Miami tailback Deland McCullough returned to his 1992 MAC Freshman of the Year form in '94.

Coach Randy Walker says: "We're throwing the ball real well, probably as good as we've thrown it since I've been here, but I'm a little concerned. I don't know if we're real good throwing it or not as good as we need to be covering it."

HIDDEEN DATA

Coach: Randy Walker (26-25-4, 5 years)

1994 record: 5-5-1 MAC 5-3/3rd

Key losses: Bill Atha, DT, Jeff Chabot, C, Markus Douglas, CB, Mike Jackson, LB, Bobby Johnson, OT, Nick Kambers, DT, Gary Layton, P, Jeremy Patterson, WR, Jason Phillips, DE, Mike Sterling, G, David Thomas, FS, Slop Trumontana, RB/WR, David Wilson, DB

Starters returning: Offense (6): Darrell Dodson, T, 6-3/300, Jr., Neil Dougherty, QB, 6-2/220, Sr.; Gena Gudry, G, 6-2/272, Sr., Eric Henderson, SE, 5-8/175, Sr., Deland McCullough, TB, 5-11/190, Sr., Daman Vaughn, TE, 6-4/235, Soph. Defense (4): Jason Holmes, E, 6-3/240, Jr., Dee Osborne, LB, 6-2/200, Jr., Ernest Perry, SS, 5-11/190, Jr., Johnnie Williams, LB, 6-0/225, Sr. Kickers (1): Chad Seitz, K, 5-9/160, Sr.

Other key returnees: Jeremy Adkins, FB, Soph., Tremayne Banks, WR, Jr., Brad Carlisle, DE, Sr. (RS/injury); Ty King, TB, Jr.; C.J. McDavd, OLB, Soph., Cleon Plummer, CB, Jr.; Sam Ricketts, QB, Soph., Arbie Shaw, FS, Soph., Marcus Stepp, DT, Soph., Jamie Taylor, CB, Soph., Scott Trostel, WR, Jr. **Returning statistical leaders:** Rushing: McCullough (227 att., 1,103 yds., 8 TD); Passing: Dougherty (201 att., 120 comp., 8 INT, 10 TD, 1,431 yds.); Receiving: Henderson (43 rec., 560 yds., 5 TD); Tackler: Williams (158), Sacker: Williams (7)

Top newcomers: Jason Cheney, P, Jr. (JC); Paul Nichols, OT, Fr. (RS); Ted Stec, OG, Fr. (RS)

Site: Oxford, Ohio. **Stadium:** Yager Stadium (25,183)

Last league title won: 1988

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Ball State	Oct. 14 —Toledo
Sept. 9 —at Kent	Oct. 28 —at C. Michigan
Sept. 16 —at Northwestern	Nov. 4 —E. Michigan
Sept. 23 —Cincinnati	Nov. 11 —at Ohio University
Sept. 30 —at Michigan	Nov. 18 —Akron
Oct. 7 —at Bowling Green	

7. CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Offensive strengths: Four starting line-men, all of whom are at least 6-3 and 290, return.

Offensive weaknesses: Of the three players contending for the starting quarterback job, only Chad Darnell saw game action last year, and he threw all of five passes. Three other untested players are trying to fill the void at tailback left by Brian Pruitt (1,890 yards). Of the 95 passes caught by Chippewas receivers last season, returning

players accounted for only five.

Defensive strengths: Three starting linebackers return, including Bubba Hester, who had six sacks in '94. The safety tandem of Quincy Wright and Chad Murphy is one of the best in the league.

Defensive weaknesses: The Chippewas must replace their entire line with untested upperclassmen or inexperienced young players. Both cornerbacks will be playing full time for the first time.

Special teams: This team was mediocre on kick returns and lost most of its regulars in that area. Central Michigan also is looking for a new punter.

Keys to success: The Chippewas aren't talented enough on offense to overcome all the mistakes they're certain to make. Turnovers will absolutely kill them this season.

Outlook: Central Michigan has been one of the steadiest programs in the MAC for the past 20 years, but there are too many question marks at too many positions for this team to finish in the first division.

Coach Dick Flynn says: "In reality, we probably don't have the ability to put points on the board like we have the last few years. The defense has to perform better to keep us in it."

CHIPPWEAS DATA

Coach: Dick Flynn (9-3, 1 year)

1994 record: 9-3 (lost to UNLV in Las Vegas Bowl), MAC 6-1/1st

Key losses: Tim Banks, CB, Brandon Bruce, LB, Jeremy Dunlap, TE, John King, FB, Andy Korytkowski, WR, Chris List, DT, Terrance McMillan, WR, Matt Nastally, G, Chris O'Brien, OT, Chad Preston, MG, Dustin Preston, DT, Brian Pruitt, TB, Malcolm Thomas, CB, Erik Timpl, QB

Starters returning: Offense (4): Bryan Carpenter, G, 6-3/290, Sr., Gary Giowack, T, 6-4/290, Soph., Brock Gutierrez, C, 6-4/290, Sr., Scott Rehberg, T, 6-3/320, Jr. Defense (5): Cory Gundersieeve, LB, 6-2/230, Jr., Bubba Hester, LB, 6-0/230, Jr., Chad Murphy, SS, 6-1/190, Sr., Greg Soranger, LB, 6-3/220, Jr., Quincy Wright, FS, 6-1/190, Jr. Kickers (1): Brad Basy, K, 5-8/168, Sr.

Other key returnees: Charlie Bush, LB, Soph., Chad Darnell, QB, Jr., Grant Elmquist, WR, Sr., Chad Frazier, FB, Sr., Jason Husband, CB, Soph., Damon Tolbert, TB, Sr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Tolbert (22 att., 106 yds., 1 TD); Passing: Darnell (5 att., 5 comp., 0 INT, 1 TD, 60 yds.); Receiving: Elmquist (1 rec., 6 yds., 1 TD); Tackler: Wright (112), Sacker: Hester (6)

Top newcomers: Tony Lorenzetti, QB, Fr. (RS), Sales Massey, TB, Fr. (RS), Adam Simonson, TE, Fr. (RS), Shawn Williams, CB, Fr. (RS)

Site: Mount Pleasant, Mich. **Stadium:** Kelly/Shorts (20,086)

Last league title won: 1994

SCHEDULE

Sept. 9 —Weber State	Oct. 21 —Kent
Sept. 16 —at East Carolina	Oct. 28 —Miami of Ohio
Sept. 23 —Bowling Green	Nov. 4 —Toledo
Sept. 30 —at Akron	Nov. 11 —at Ball State
Oct. 7 —at E. Michigan	Nov. 18 —at W. Michigan
Oct. 14 —at Youngstown State	

8. KENT

Offensive strengths: The offense is built around tailback Astron Whatley, the 1994 MAC Freshman of the Year. He also was Kent's top pass catcher. Center Bob Hallen is only a sophomore, but he is a good leader on the offensive line. Brian Paroda gives the line some stability.

Offensive weaknesses: There is no depth in the backfield. The second-leading rusher behind Whatley was quarterback Mike Challenger, who had 193 yards. The leading wide receiver, Lance Hansen, caught only 17 passes.

Defensive strengths: Ends Mike Barry and Steve Szymanowski and tackle Gerald Washington have the ability to make plays

behind the line of scrimmage.

Defensive weaknesses: This team wasn't very good on defense last year and lost its five leading tacklers. There's not much experience. **Special teams:** Kent was one of the least productive return teams in the MAC last year. A new punter and kicker must be found. **Keys to success:** The Golden Flashes finished second in the MAC in turnover margin last season but the offense struggled to put points on the board. The offense has to take advantage when given opportunities.

Outlook: There is not enough talent at most positions for Kent to make much of a move in 1995. The defense lost eight starters and the offense isn't potent enough to carry the team.

Coach Jim Corrigan says: "The second year (after a coaching change) always helps teams in a situation like ours. The players are getting to know their assistant coaches, the intensity is up, the overall team strength is improved and we're more confident in what we're doing."

GOLDEN FLASHES DATA

Coach: Jim Corrigan (2-9, 1 year)

1994 record: 2-9 MAC 2-7/8th

Key losses: Vance Benton, CB, Robbie Bulfs, K, Berkeley Claggett, CB, Jon Durkos, LB, Matt Jenne, DT, Travis Jennings, DT, Roger Jones, SS, Morrey Noma, LB, Ken Walter, P, Rich Yurkewicz, LB

Starters returning: Offense (10): Mike Challenger, CB, 6-1/192, Sr., Steve DeLucia, G, 6-3/257, Sr., Bob Hallen, C, 6-4/240, Soph., Lance Hansen, FL, 5-10/174, Jr., Joe Miller, FB, 6-2/235, Soph., Brian Paroda, T, 6-4/278, Sr., Mark Porter, TE, 6-3/224, Sr., Astron Whatley, TB, 5-8/177, Soph., Donny White, G, 6-4/261, Jr., Steve Zahursky, T, 6-5/245, Soph. Defense (4): Chris Amill, DB (moved from WR), 6-3/210, Jr., Mike Barry, E, 6-1/240, Sr., Robert Moore, FS, 5-9/164, Jr., Steve Szymanowski, E, 6-2/228, Sr. Kickers: None

Other key returnees: Brian Miller, LB, Sr.; Chris Morgan, FB, Soph. (RS); O.J. Santiago, TE, Jr., Gerald Washington, DT, Sr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Whatley (241 att., 1,003 yds., 10 TD); Passing: Challenger (162 att., 81 comp., 5 INT, 2 TD, 842 yds.); Receiving: Whatley (23 rec., 120 yds., 0 TD); Tackler: Barry (61), Sacker: Barry (5)

Top newcomers: Roger Forstach, P, Jr. (JC); Marc O'Brien, QB, Jr. (JC); Joseph Romano, K, Soph. (JC); Kantray Walker, WR, Jr. (transfer/The Citadel)

Site: Kent, Ohio. **Stadium:** Dix Stadium (30,520)

Last league title won: 1972



The Golden Flashes' offense will be built around tailback Astron Whatley.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Youngstown State	Oct. 21 —at C. Michigan
Sept. 9 —Miami of Ohio	Oct. 28 —at Akron
Sept. 16 —at Ohio University	Nov. 4 —Ball State
Sept. 23 —at West Virginia	Nov. 11 —Bowling Green
Sept. 30 —W. Michigan	Nov. 18 —E. Michigan
Oct. 7 —at South Carolina	

9. AKRON

Offensive strengths: Quarterback Brian Magrell showed signs of promise late in his freshman season last year. There is great speed at wide receiver.

Offensive weaknesses: The Zips struggled on the ground in '94 and have no returnees who gained even 100 yards for the season. There is no depth on the line.

Defensive strengths: Jason Taylor is a versatile athlete who can play on the line or at linebacker. Linebacker Darwin Wilson and free safety John Harpring lead by example.

Defensive weaknesses: The front seven is mostly inexperienced, which doesn't bode well for a team that allowed an average of 409 yards per game.

Special teams: Michael Hayes showed some ability when he took over the punting duties late last season, but he lacked consistency. Kicker Jozsef Jakab is solid, but a weak offense won't put him in position very often.

Keys to success: The Zips need to build a running game to get their offense started. They managed just 2.9 yards per rush last year. Akron also must take care of the ball. It led the MAC last year in fumbles lost (12) and passes intercepted (26).

Outlook: Despite a change in coaches, Akron is in the same position it was last season—fighting Ohio to stay out of last place. There's not much on the roster for new Coach Lee Owens, an assistant at Ohio State the past three years, to get excited about.

Coach Lee Owens says: "With this kind of competition (the Zips play bowl teams Kansas State and Virginia Tech and Division I-AA national champ Youngstown State), I just hope to see the 1996 season."

ZIPS DATA

Coach: Lee Owens (1st year).
1994 record: 1-10, MAC 1-8/9th.
Key losses: Eric Agosti, C; DeShawn Brown, TB; Morris Cooley, DE; Phil Dunn, LB; Pate Habib, SS; Jeff Junko, P; Mike Lyon, G; Matt Ross, OT.
Starters returning: Offense (7): Jeff Blakely, WR, 5-9/192, Jr.; Brian Gabrielschki, T, 6-4/275, Jr.; Andy Kittle, G, 6-4/265, Jr.; Brian Magrell, QB, 6-3/200, Soph.; Jermaine Porter, TE, 6-4/240, Sr.; Jamie Reader, FB, 6-2/230, Sr.; Matt Thiry, WR, 5-10/182, Jr. Defense (8): Bryan Coles, CB, 6-2/175, Jr.; Symeon Floyd, EALB, 6-1/240, Jr.; John Harpring, FS, 6-2/210, Jr.; Al Holmes, E, 6-5/260, Jr.; Jaiye Murdock, CB, 5-8/160, Soph.; Jason Taylor, LB, 6-5/220, Jr.; Mack Warren, NT, 6-2/268, Jr.; Darwin Wilson, LB, 6-2/230, Sr.
Kickers (1): Jozsef Jakab, K, 5-9/200, Sr.
Other key returnees: Eddie Alford, WR, Jr.; Nate Boyd, LB, Soph.; Erik Branch, C, Jr.; Lamont Brown, DE, Jr.; Corey Christian, LB, Soph.; Terrell Dixon, TB, Soph.; Michael Hayes, P, Soph.; Mike Junko, QB, Jr.; Matt Kaulig, QB, Sr.; Nate Riles, CB, Jr.; Joe Rumolo, OT, Jr.; Devon Scott, WR, Jr.; Chad Zgonc, TE, Soph.
Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Reader (40 att., 106 yds., 1 TD); Passing: Magrell (79 att., 44 comp., 6 INT, 2 TD 548 yds.); Receiving: Scott (18 rec., 243 yds., 1 TD); Tackler: Wilson (95); Sackler: Taylor (6).
Top newcomers: Ray Edmonds, DL, Jr. (transfer/Michigan); Low Lawhorn, WR, Sr. (transfer/Temple); Greg Lomax, TB, Fr (RS); Richard Schiederer, OT, Fr. (RS).
Site: Akron, Ohio. **Stadium:** Rubber Bowl (35,202).
Last league title won: None.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —E. Michigan	Oct. 21 —Ohio University
Sept. 16 —at Bowling Green	Oct. 28 —Kent
Sept. 23 —at Kansas State	Nov. 4 —Youngstown State

Sept. 30 —C. Michigan	Nov. 11 —at Toledo
Oct. 7 —at W. Michigan	Nov. 18 —at Miami of Ohio
Oct. 14 —at Virginia Tech	

10. OHIO UNIVERSITY

Offensive strengths: Tailback Larkos Townsend can be a capable rusher, and running back Hank Ray is shifty in the open field. **Offensive weaknesses:** Where to start? The Bobcats have no solid quarterback prospect, no receivers of note, and are rebuilding on the line.

Defensive strengths: Linebackers Jabaar Thompson and Benny King and strong safety Damiso Johnson are good players who finished 1-2-3 on the team in tackles last season. Noseguard Mario Daniel will give you an honest day's work. Kevin Martells is ready at cornerback.

Defensive weaknesses: The line has to get tougher if the Bobcats are going to cut down on the rushing yardage they allow. Opponents averaged 4.5 yards per rush and 214 yards per game in 1994.

Special teams: Scott Roberts is a highly accurate kicker from inside 40 yards, but he doesn't get many opportunities. The punt-return team needs improving, too.

Keys to success: In Ohio's case, it's more like keys to small steps toward improvement. The Bobcats have decent talent at a few positions on defense, but they have to get some help from an offense that was inept most of last year.

Outlook: The Bobcats didn't win a game in 1994 and the prospects for '95 aren't a whole lot better. Their best chance comes when they host I-AA Illinois State on September 9.

Coach Jim Grobe says: "Our success hinges on our ability to increase our strength and develop better foot quickness. I'm pleased with the overall speed of our football team, and I hope that will offset our lack of size at some positions."

BOBCATS DATA

Coach: Jim Grobe (1st year).
1994 record: 0-11, MAC 0-9/10th.
Key losses: Troy Brandt, DE; Andy Carter, OT; Jim Frenzer, DT; Marcus Gambelin, CB; Casey Gayle, WR; Jason Goss, WR; Chris Horgan, TE; Scott Jude, G; Corey King, CB; Tim Norvell, FS; Dwight Pickens, FB; Sam Vink, QB; David Wendt, C.
Starters returning: Offense (4): Jason Caudill, T, 6-4/280, Soph.; Matt DeWitt, G, 6-5/295, Jr.; Hank Ray, RB, 5-11/175, Jr.; Larkos Townsend, RB, 5-9/195, Sr. Defense (6): Burt Brooks, E, 6-3/245, Soph.; Mario Daniel, NG, 6-3/290, Sr.; Damiso Johnson, SS, 6-0/205, Sr.; Benny King, LB, 6-0/245, Sr.; Charles Owens, LB, 6-2/220, Jr.; Jabaar Thompson, LB, 6-0/220, Sr. Kickers (3): Jon Beyer, P, 5-11/180, Soph.; Paul Hamilton, P, 6-0/180, Sr.; Scott Roberts, K, 6-2/210, Jr.
Other key returnees: Justin Anderson, SS, Soph.; Bob Bees, QB, Jr.; Matt Fitzgerald, LB, Sr.; Doug Kester, LB, Jr.; Kevin Martells, CB, Jr.; T.J. Martin, WR, Jr.; Chris Ross, LB, Sr.
Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Townsend (199 att. 676 yds., 1 TD); Passing: Bees (71 att., 20 comp., 5 INT, 2 TD, 238 yds.); Receiving: Ray (9 rec., 51 yds., 0 TD); Tackler: Thompson (159); Sackler: Brooks (2).
Top newcomers: Sid Hall, RB, Fr. (RS); Wolfgang Kratzberg, DL, Fr. (RS); Mike Solominsky, DL, Fr. (RS).
Site: Athens, Ohio. **Stadium:** Peden Stadium (20,000).
Last league title won: 1988.

SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 —at Iowa State	Oct. 21 —at Akron
Sept. 9 —Illinois State	Oct. 28 —Ball State
Sept. 16 —Kent	Nov. 4 —at Bowling Green
Sept. 23 —at E. Michigan	Nov. 11 —Miami of Ohio
Sept. 30 —at North Carolina	Nov. 18 —at Toledo
Oct. 14 —W. Michigan	

Doug Zaleski is a sportswriter for the Muncie (Ind.) Evening Press.

BURNING QUESTION

Is league's Division I-A future on solid ground?

Of the 10 conferences in the nation that play Division I-A football, the league on shakiest I-A ground entering the 1995 season is the Mid-American Conference, which barely retained its I-A status last season. The problem? Attendance, or lack thereof.

For a league to maintain Division I-A status, a majority of member schools are required to meet one of two attendance criteria: (1) an average minimum countable attendance of 17,000 per game in home games only; or (2) an average minimum countable attendance of 20,000 per game in all games. Last season, six of the 10 MAC schools met such requirements.

In January, in conjunction with the NCAA Convention in San Diego, the MAC's Council of Presidents held a meeting to discuss the matter. The end result: Each of the league's 10 schools was told to develop a four-year plan to achieve and maintain the NCAA's football attendance requirement for Division I-A. Among the mandates is that each school eventually must have a stadium that seats at least 30,000 for football, a requirement only five schools (Akron, Bowling Green, Eastern Michigan, Kent, Western Michigan) meet. But no deadline was set for compliance.

"I feel very comfortable with what has been adopted by our membership in regards to meeting the attendance requirement," MAC Commissioner Jerry Ippoliti said. "When told they have to do something, it comes across stronger than saying they should try to do it."

Six of the league's schools usually meet the attendance requirements. Four—Ball State, Eastern Michigan, Kent and Ohio—have had trouble in the past. Those four have had to submit marketing and promotions plans detailing how they are going to beef up their attendance figures in future seasons. If they don't, or can't, fines (\$75,000 or more), conference probation or outright expulsion from the league are possible.

"What I see... is a commitment by the MAC and the presidents of the conference schools to do what is necessary to be a I-A conference," said Central Michigan A.D. Herb Deromedi.

Each school must present an annual strategic plan to the conference office for review. To help member schools achieve the goals set by the conference, the commissioner and a league committee will provide input in areas such as scheduling, marketing and media exposure. But if the conference feels individual schools are not on course to achieve attendance requirements, the penalties may come next.

—DOUG ZALESKI

SCOUTING THE MID-AMERICAN

Ascending: Eastern Michigan. The Eagles are coming off their first winning record in league play in four years (5-4). They've improved each of the past two seasons and have enough talent at several positions to make another move upward in 1995.

Descending: Central Michigan. The Chippewas' fall from the league championship pedestal they were on last season could be a long one. This year's squad has a lot of holes that will have to be filled by inexperienced players. Watch out below.

Nightmare schedule: Akron. New Coach Lee Owens' rebuilding job isn't helped by a schedule that has the Zips on the road for four of their first six games. The Zips play at MAC title contenders Bowling Green and Western Michigan, at Kansas State and at Virginia Tech in a span of five weeks.

Dream schedule: Eastern Michigan. The Eagles' first two league games are against last-place contenders Akron and Ohio, and they face a weakened Central Michigan team in their third MAC game.

Best matchup of the year: Toledo at Bowling Green, October 21. Bowling Green has been the MAC's dominant team the past four years, but it has beaten Toledo by a touchdown or less in three of the past four seasons. This rivalry is always hot, but this year's game also could have championship implications.

Worst matchup of the year: Ohio at Akron, October 21. These teams made history last year when they battled each other with identical 0-10 records in the last week of the season. Ninth place could be on the line again.

Shocker of the year: Ball State over Bowling Green, October 14. This is a dangerous game for the Falcons, who travel to Ball State one week after hosting tradi-

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive backfield:	Bowling Green
Best wide receivers:	Eastern Michigan
Best offensive line:	Bowling Green
Best defensive line:	Western Michigan
Best linebackers:	Miami
Best secondary:	Central Michigan
Best special teams:	Ball State
Hardest hitter:	Daniel Mitchell, S, Western Michigan
Best backup quarterback:	Sam Ricketts, Miami
Best pro prospect:	Ryan Hertz, QB, Bowling Green
Best stadium:	Doyt Perry Stadium, Bowling Green
Best rivalry:	Bowling Green-Toledo

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. Bowling Green (Best recruit: DB Orlando Rogers) Rogers is an all-conference choice in waiting. Linebackers Dan King and Chris Wingo and DB Mark Rodgers make this a solid class.
2. Central Michigan (DB Marvin Savage)
3. Miami of Ohio (LB DeJuan Armour)
4. Western Michigan (DE Tom Rozema)
5. Toledo (WR Raymond Curry)
6. Kent (DB Kasey Parnell)
7. Ohio University (DB Mark Stubbs)
8. Ball State (DE Wilber McDonald)
9. Eastern Michigan (WR Warren Gubierrez)
10. Akron (LB George Cameron)

tion-rich Miami and one week before hosting Toledo.

Bowl bound: Bowling Green. The Falcons have the top quarterback in the MAC and a solid defense, which should earn them the automatic bid to the Las Vegas Bowl.

Biggest shoes to fill: Central Michigan tailback Brian Pruitt's. All Pruitt did was rush for 1,890 yards and win MAC Player of the Year honors while leading the Chippewas to the 1994 title. His replacement likely will be Damon Tolbert, who gained 106 yards last season.

Most underrated player: Eastern Michigan linebacker Reese McCaskill. This guy has made 331 tackles in the past three seasons and hasn't gotten even honorable mention on the All-MAC team.

Most overrated player: Western Michigan quarterback Jay McDonagh. His statistics in two years as a starter are impressive, but he hasn't delivered a championship when the Broncos have had a chance to win one.

Best head coach: Gary Blackney, Bowling Green. Since taking over the program in 1991, his teams have gone 28-2-2 in league play and 2-0 in bowl games, the MAC's only postseason wins in seven years.

Best assistant coaches: Bowling Green. One man can't do it alone, so it stands to reason that Bowling Green's assistants have had a lot to do with the Falcons' recent success.

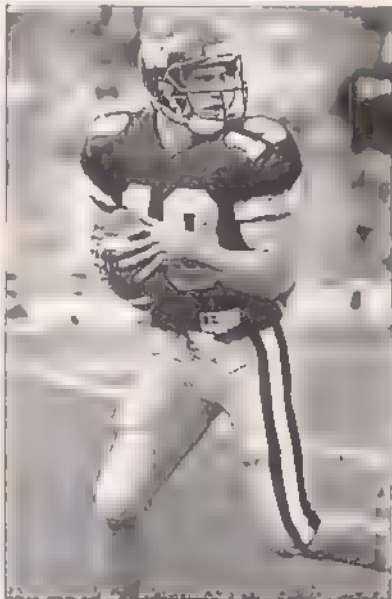
Coach on the hot seat: Randy Walker, Miami of Ohio. The once-mighty Redskins haven't won the league title since 1986, four years before Walker arrived. With a 26-25-4 record in five sea-

sons and a new athletic director on board, Walker needs to firm up the trembling ground he's standing on.

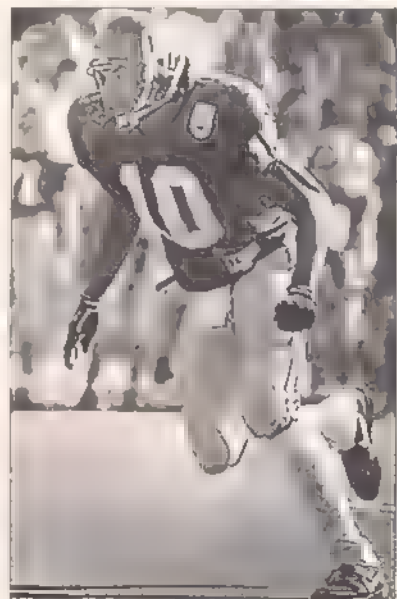
Best bets: With Gerry Faust gone, Akron's postgame news conferences won't include the line, "Our coaches and kids have had an unbelievable attitude all season. We had our best practice of the season last Wednesday." ... With a dearth of talented receivers in the league this year, look for MAC coaches to run the ball a bit more often than they would like. ... November will be anticlimactic as far as the league race goes. The title should be wrapped up by the time Bowling Green concludes its season against Ohio on November 4 and Kent a week later.

Odds and ends: Four schools have new coaches. Bill Lynch replaced Paul Schudel at Ball State, Rick Rasnick took over for Ron Cooper at Eastern Michigan, Lee Owens stepped in for Faust at Akron and Jim Grobe succeeded Tom Lichtenberg at Ohio. Schudel is now offensive coordinator at Illinois, Cooper the coach at Louisville. ... Bowling Green's 36-8-2 record since 1991 (including bowl games) ranks seventh in Division I-A over that span. The Falcons' .804 winning percentage is slightly better than Florida's (40-10-1, .794) and just below Penn State's (41-9, .820). ... Pity quarterbacks Ryan Henry of Bowling Green and Brent Baldwin of Ball State, who had the two highest pass efficiency ratings in the MAC last year. Bowling Green's returning wide receiver corps includes only player who made a catch in 1994 (and he made only one catch). Ball State's none. ... Bowling Green, Ball State and Central Michigan each have won two MAC championships in the past six years.

—DOUG ZALESKI



Western Michigan quarterback Jay McDonagh has good stats but no titles.



Despite the presence of star free safety Quincy Wright, Central Michigan is descending.

1. NEVADA

Offensive strengths: The passing game again will be the best in the Big West. Returning are quarterback Mike Maxwell, the league's offensive player of the year last season, and wide receiver Alex Van Dyke, a second-team All-America. Offense is never a question at Nevada, which finished second nationally in average yardage to Penn State.

Offensive weaknesses: Replacing three guards who split almost equal time will be the main concern. The line didn't give up many sacks last season, and it will need to get its timing down quickly. And Nevada fans will hold their breath whenever Ken Minor carries the ball. He could rush for 1,000 yards, but his fumbling problems are a real concern.

Defensive strengths: While many of his teammates watched opponents run toward the end zone, outside linebacker Deshone Myles dominated. He quickly became the Wolf Pack's best defender as a freshman last season. Nevada coaches, who put a heavy emphasis on the secondary during recruiting, hope newcomers Mike Guider, Doyle Holmon and Molech Blythe upgrade what has been a weakness.

Defensive weaknesses: Three of the four starting defensive linemen are gone, and the starter coming back, tackle David Miller, was academically ineligible in the spring. His status is uncertain. If the new prospects don't come through in the secondary, look for opponents to throw at will against the Wolf Pack.

Special teams: Armando Avina was the kicking game last season, but he is gone. The kickoff- and punt-return teams should be solid, but Nevada must do a better job on covering returns.

Keys to success: Minor must hold on to the ball, and the new defensive backs must shut down opposing passing attacks.

Outlook: This is the team to beat. Nevada has the best talent in the conference, most of its key players back, the league's top recruiting class and plays its toughest Big West opponent, Southwestern Louisiana, at home. The Wolf Pack has suffered season-ending, no-excuse losses each of the past two seasons—to Arkansas State in 1993 and UNLV last year—that cost it trips to the Las Vegas Bowl. It is hungry.

Coach Chris Ault says: "I don't think we're the team to beat. Southwestern Louisiana is the co-champion. They tied us last year, and the year before tied Utah State. I think they're the team to beat. They're the team that's been the most consistent the last couple of years. I think our team is good enough to go to the higher echelon without question, and I think we will have something to do with who wins the championship."

WOLF PACK DATA

Coach: Chris Ault (154-50-1, 18 years)

1994 record: 9-2 Big West: 5-1/T1st

Key losses: Armando Avina, P/K; Mike Braux, G; Andy Buh, LB; Marcellus Chishon, RB; Jeff Kondra, DT; Clayton Lopez, FS; Frank Marvitz, DE; Jude Mayne, TE; Tim Rucks, SS; Marty Washington, DE; Mark Walker, G; Dan Zamora, WR.

Starters returning: Offense (7): Jeff Hadwick, C, 6-4/250, Jr., Mike Maxwell, QB, 6-4/200, Sr., Steve McHenry, WR, 6-3/205, Sr., Ken Minor, RB, 5-11/200, Sr., Mike Rockwood, T, 7-0/310, Sr., Daron Thorp, T, 6-8/295, Sr., Alex Van Dyke, WR, 6-1/195, Sr. Defense (6): James Camma, T, 6-2/270, Soph., Juan Givens, CB, 5-10/175, Sr., Darnell Hasson, CB,

BIG WEST

Conference Rank: 10

By MARK ANDERSON

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. NEVADA
2. SW LOUISIANA
3. NORTHERN ILLINOIS
4. NEW MEXICO STATE
5. UTAH STATE
6. LOUISIANA TECH
7. UNLV
8. PACIFIC
9. SAN JOSE STATE
10. ARKANSAS STATE



With the return of receiver Alex Van Dyke, Nevada again will have an awesome offense.

6-0/175, Jr.; David Miller, T, 6-3/275, Sr., Deshone Myles,

LB, 6-3/215, Soph.; Lamonte Porter, LB, 6-2/225, Sr.

Kickers: None

Other key returnees: Bob Cooper, OT, Sr., Timwan Hall, LB, Jr.; Garrett Overby, S, Jr.; John Peaua, LB, Sr., Cornel West, WR/KR, Sr.; Julian Yearwood, LB, Sr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Minor (180 att., 748 yds., 14 TD); Passing: Maxwell (447 att., 271 comp., 15 INT, 29 TD, 3,537 yds.); Receiving: Van Dyke (98 rec., 1,246 yds., 10 TD); Tackler: Myles (138); Sackler: Hall (5)

Top newcomers: Molech Blythe, FS, Jr. (JC); Mike Guider, DB, Jr. (JC); Soma Hella, G, Jr. (JC); Doyle Holmon, DB, Jr. (JC); Arthur Lloyd, WR, Fr. (RS); Deon McDaniel, DB, Fr. (RS); Don Morgan, DB, Fr. (RS); Clint Peterson, LB, Jr. (RS); Sean Simms, TE, Jr. (RS); Demond Wilkins, WR, Jr. (JC)

Site: Reno, Nev. Stadium: Mackay Stadium (31,545)

Last league title won: 1994 (tie)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —SW Louisiana	Oct. 21 —at Louisiana Tech
Sept. 9 —at New Mexico St.	Oct. 28 —UNLV
Sept. 23 —Toledo	Nov. 4 —at Utah State
Sept. 30 —at San Diego State	Nov. 11 —at Pacific
Oct. 7 —North Texas	Nov. 18 —San Jose State
Oct. 14 —Northeast Louisiana	

2. SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA

Offensive strengths: The Ragin' Cajuns have become known for their defense, but their offense is dangerous, too. Quarterback Jake Delhomme is only a junior, but he already is No. 3 on the school's career passing list (3,554 yards). He has Donald Richard to throw to and an experienced line to protect him.

Offensive weaknesses: The running game is a real concern. Top 1994 rusher Steve Mocek is gone, and fullback Kenyon Cotton may be academically ineligible. If the running game doesn't come around, that puts more pressure on Delhomme.

Defensive strengths: End Jeff Mitchell and cornerback Tim Sensley are two of the few players on defense with much experience, and both will be counted on heavily. Mitchell could be the conference's best defender. The Ragin' Cajuns always play tough defense.

Defensive weaknesses: Inexperience. The secondary lost three starters and both middle linebackers, and there will be some major reshuffling done in the front seven.

Special teams: Mike Shafer doesn't kick much, but he doesn't miss, either. He made all 14 field goals he attempted last season and was a finalist for the Lou Groza Award. Punter Mike Jones averaged 40 yards a kick and placed 20 punts inside the 20-yard line.

Keys to success: Southwestern Louisiana must continue to do what it does best: play defense. To do that, the Ragin' Cajuns must find quality replacements in the secondary and figure out what to do with the front seven.

Outlook: Even with all the question marks, Southwestern Louisiana will be one of the league's premier teams. If it gets past Nevada in the opener, it should be in good shape. Problem is, Southwestern Louisiana has shared the conference title the past two seasons but did not advance to the Las Vegas Bowl either time. As good as the Ragin' Cajuns have been, they still need to take the next step.

Coach Nelson Stokley says: "Hopefully, (not going to the Las Vegas Bowl the last two seasons) makes us hungry. It's a frustrating fact, but we didn't take care of business. There's no one to blame but ourselves."

RAGIN' CAJUNS DATA

Coach: Nelson Stokley (48-50-1, 9 years)

1994 record: 6-5 Big West: 5-1/T1st

Key losses: Patrice Alexander, LB; Joe Bailey, DE; Casey Brabham, LB; Ronald Gunner, OT; John Harris, SS; Steve Mocek, TB; Fernando Thomas, CB; Orlando Thomas, FS; Ron Thomas, WR; Brett Yarbro, G.

Starters returning: Offense (8): Greg Baker, TE, 6-3/218,

Sr.; Kenyon Cotton, FB, 6-0/251, Jr.; Jake Delhomme, QB,

6-2/190, Jr.; Sam Heinen, G, 6-4/300, Sr.; Keno Hills, T

6-6/302, Sr.; Donald Richard, WR, 6-1/185, Jr.; Cody Romero,

TE, 6-2/244, Jr.; Luke Yamell, C, 6-2/277, Sr. Defense (6):

Paul Cabbie, T, 6-2/260, Jr.; Marlon Goff, LB, 6-0/204, Sr.,

Derek McKinley, E, 6-1/257, Sr.; Jeff Mitchell, E, 6-2/239, Sr.,

Tim Sensley, CB, 5-9/168, Sr.; Clinton Sylvester, T, 6-2/288,

Sr. Kickers (2): Mike Jones, P, 5-8/178, Jr.; Mike Shafer, K,

5-10/170, Sr.

Other key returnees: Anthony Clement, OT, Soph., Britt

Jackson, CB, Jr., Marcus Prier, TE, Sr., Ken Studmore, LB,

Soph. (RS/hamstring); Franco Smith, WR, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Cotton (129 att., 547

yds., 6 TD); Passing: Delhomme (259 att., 119 comp., 18 INT

10 TD, 1,712 yds.); Receiving: Richard (41 rec., 723 yds.,

5 TD); Tackler: Sensley (82); Sackler: Mitchell, Cabbie (4)

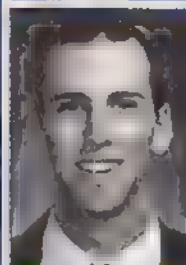
Top newcomers: Troy Clement, WR, Soph. (Prop 48); Chad

Hakemack, OT, Fr. (RS); Chad Hohesal, DT, Jr. (JC); Peter

Continued

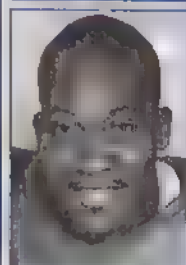
PRESEASON ALL-BIG WEST TEAM

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE

MIKE MAXWELL
QB Nevada



DEFENSE

JEFF MITCHELL
E SW Louisiana

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE: Maurice Thomas, WR, Arkansas State
DEFENSE: Mike Guider, DB, Nevada

COACH OF THE YEAR

Charlie Sadler, Northern Illinois

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	LUCIOUS DAVIS, New Mexico State	5-11/170	Sr
WR	ALEX VAN DYKE, Nevada	6-1/195	Sr
TE	SEAN MANUEL, New Mexico State	6-3/244	Sr
T	MIKE ROCKWOOD, Nevada	7-0/310	Sr
T	KENO HILLS, SW Louisiana	6-6/302	Sr
G	SAMMY MEN, SW Louisiana	6-4/300	Sr
G	ROBBIE MORRISON, UNLV	6-4/290	Sr
C	MIKE SUTHERLAND, Northern Illinois	6-1/287	Sr
QB	MIKE MAXWELL, Nevada	6-4/200	Sr
RB	JOE ABDULAH, Pacific	6-0/206	Sr
RB	ABU WILSON, Utah State	6-1/202	Sr

DEFENSE

E	JEFF MITCHELL, SW Louisiana	6-0/239	Sr
T	HOLLIS THOMAS, Northern Illinois	6-1/298	Sr
T	CLIFTON SYLVESTER, Arkansas State	6-2/268	Sr
E	C.J. ROSE, Northern Illinois	6-2/249	Sr
LB	DESHONE MYLES, Nevada	6-3/215	Soph
LB	MANUEL HESTER, Northern Illinois	5-11/240	Sr
LB	ROSSELL JOHNSON, UNLV	6-4/245	Sr
CB	WILL E. SMITH, Louisiana Tech	5-10/175	Jr
CB	DARNELL HASSON, Nevada	6-0/175	Jr
S	CLARK WATKINS, Arkansas State	5-11/180	Sr
S	CEDRIC WALTON, New Mexico State	5-9/192	Sr

SPECIALISTS

K	MIKE SHAFER, SW Louisiana	5-10/170	Sr
P	KYLE RICHARDSON, Arkansas State	6-2/180	Sr
KR	KEVIN ALEXANDER, Utah State	5-10/174	Sr

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	KEVIN ALEXANDER, Utah State	5-10/174	Sr
WR	DEAN JACKSON, Louisiana Tech	5-10/180	Jr
TE	BRIAN ROCHE, San Jose State	6-5/231	Sr
T	GRANT WILLIAMS, Louisiana Tech	6-7/305	Sr
T	DEREK SHOLDICE, Northern Illinois	6-4/297	Sr
G	DARRIN MITCHELL, Utah State	6-4/278	Jr
G	DAN WELDON, Pacific	6-5/305	Sr
C	LUKE YARNELL, SW Louisiana	6-2/277	Sr
QB	LUKE DEMOMME, SW Louisiana	6-2/190	Jr
RB	KENYON COTTON, SW Louisiana	6-0/251	Jr
RB	COREY WALKER, Arkansas State	5-10/185	Jr

DEFENSE

E	KEITH WASHINGTON, Louisiana Tech	6-3/240	Sr
T	CARLO WHITE, Arkansas State	6-1/270	Sr
T	JAMES CANNIDA, Nevada	6-2/270	Soph
E	CARLOS EMMONS, Arkansas State	6-4/240	Sr
LB	LANCE REED, Louisiana Tech	6-0/206	Sr
LB	SAM MANUEL, New Mexico State	6-3/240	Sr
LB	DAN DUGAN, Utah State	6-2/240	Jr
CB	THOMAS SLEAY, SW Louisiana	5-9/168	Sr
CB	SCOTT CARINGELLA, Northern Illinois	5-10/174	Sr
S	MAURICE HARRIS, Arkansas State	6-0/210	Sr
S	MARCUS GALBREATH, San Jose State	5-9/196	Sr

SPECIALISTS

K	MICAH KNORR, Utah State	6-1/178	Jr
P	MIKE JONES, SW Louisiana	5-8/178	Jr
KR	COREY WALKER, Arkansas State	5-10/185	Jr

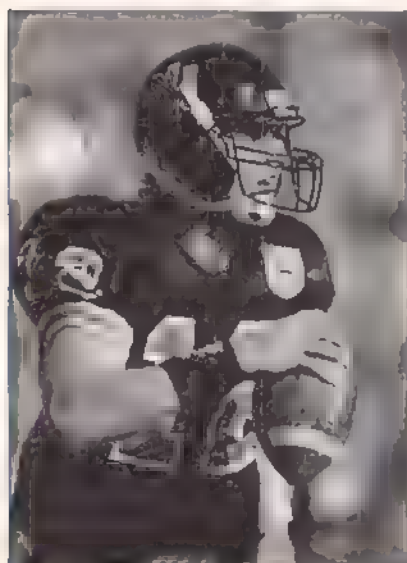
Lawrence, FS, Soph. (Prop 48), James Moore, DE, Soph. (Prop 48), Vandrea Spells, DT, Soph. (Prop 48), Brandon Stokley, WR, Fr. (RS), Chucky Woodall, LB, Fr. (RS)
Site: Lafayette, La. Stadium: Cajun Field (31,000)
Last league title won: 1994 (Ia)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Nevada	Oct. 21 —Pacific
Sept. 9 —Alabama-Birmingham	Oct. 28 —at Tulane
Sept. 16 —at Memphis	Nov. 4 —Louisiana Tech
Sept. 23 —at Northern Illinois	Nov. 11 —at Arkansas
Oct. 7 —at Arkansas State	Nov. 18 —S. Mississippi
Oct. 14 —New Mexico State	

3. NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Offensive strengths: After playing well offensively down the stretch last season,



Northern Illinois quarterback Aaron Gilbert will work behind one of the Big West's best lines.

the Huskies should be able to carry that momentum into this season. This no longer is a two-quarterback team. With Sean Allgood gone, the offense is Aaron Gilbert's to run alone. Gilbert threw for 1,437 yards last season, the most by a NIU quarterback in 19 years. Plus, he will have what Coach Charlie Sadler calls the conference's top offensive line to work behind.

Offensive weaknesses: Replacing tailback Brian Grimes and wide receiver Vaurice Patterson will not be easy. Grimes rushed for 876 yards, and Patterson caught 34 passes for 578 yards.

Defensive strengths: Good luck trying to run against this line. End C.J. Rose has made 20 tackles for loss in the past two seasons, and noseguard Hollis Thomas helps clog the middle. With seven starters back, the defense as a whole should be improved.

Defensive weaknesses: Two starting defensive backs have departed, and solid replacements need to be found if the Huskies don't want opponents throwing over their heads. The loss of inside linebacker Gerald Nickelberry doesn't help.

Special teams: Patterson's departure hurts the return team. Punter Jamie Dobay is back, but he must improve on his 37-yard average. Brian Clark, a true freshman, will be the kicker.

Keys to success: The defensive line must play up to its potential. If that happens and the offense continues to play like it did at the end of last year, the Huskies should contend for the Big West title.

Outlook: Northern Illinois has the ingredients to make a run at the conference championship but appears to be a step behind Nevada and Southwestern Louisiana. But

who could have predicted UNLV would wind up in the Las Vegas Bowl last season? Northern Illinois could be this year's UNLV. Coach Charlie Sadler says: "Winning the last two Big West games and going toe-to-toe with Vanderbilt and Arkansas gave the team confidence. This is the strongest team to date."

HUSKIE DATA

Coach: Charlie Sadler (15-29, 4 years)

1994 record: 4-7 Big West, 3-37/5th

Key losses: Sean Allgood, QB, George Anthony, FB; Eddie Davis, CB, Sam Denson, FS, Mike Duchane, DE; Brian Grimes, TB, Lance Lassaigne, K, Timmie Lewis, OT, Gerald Nickelberry, LB, Chris O'Neal, C, Vaurice Patterson, FL
Starters returning: **Offense (6):** Duane Arndell, G, 6-0/283, Jr., Otha Brooks, FL, 6-1/186, Sr., Aaron Gilbert, QB, 6-4/219, Sr., Mitch Jacoby, TE, 6-5/248, Jr., Derek Sholdice, T, 6-4/297, Sr., Mike Sutherland, C, 6-1/287, Sr. **Defense (7):** Orlando Bowen, LB, 6-2/219, Soph., Scott Caringella, CB, 5-10/174, Sr., Mandel Hester, LB, 5-11/240, Sr., Greg Parrish, SS, 6-1/182, Soph., Steve Rhoads, T, 6-2/257, Jr., C.J. Rose, E, 6-2/249, Sr., Hollis Thomas, NG, 6-1/298, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Jamie Dobay, P, 5-11/163, Sr.

Other key returnees: Kent Booth, G, Soph., Justin Knapp, FB, Soph.; Jamie Macdonald, OT, Soph.; Salim Phillips, SS, Soph.; Charles Talley, TB, Jr., Shawn Wehrspann, LB, Sr.; Brandon Wilks, WR, Sr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Talley (122 att., 566 yds., 9 TD); Passing: Gilbert (155 att., 80 comp., 7 INT, 8 TD, 1,212 yds.); Receiving: Wilks (15 rec., 198 yds., 1 TD); Tackler: Hester (114); Sacker: Rose (7)

Top newcomers: Brian Clark, K, Fr., Scott Florence, TB, Jr. (JC), Marceon Haywood, TB, Fr. (RS/injury), Deon Mitchell, FL, Fr. (RS), Dan Stankowski, DE, Fr. (RS), Michael Stokes, TB, Fr.; Kenneth Williams, QB, Soph. (JC)

Site: DeKalb, Ill. Stadium: Huskie Stadium (31,000)

Last league title won: None

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at S. Mississippi	Oct. 14 —at Utah State
Sept. 9 —Louisville	Oct. 28 —Cincinnati
Sept. 16 —at San Jose State	Nov. 4 —at Florida
Sept. 23 —SW Louisiana	Nov. 11 —Arkansas State
Sept. 30 —at Kansas State	Nov. 18 —at Louisiana Tech
Oct. 7 —UNLV	

4. NEW MEXICO STATE

Offensive strengths: This wouldn't be a Big West team without a strong passing game, and the Aggies have that with quarterback Cody Ledbetter and wide receiver Lucious Davis. If Davis is covered, tight end Sean Manuel is more than capable.

Offensive weaknesses: Who will step forward at running back? Kirk Compton, a walk-on last season, could start. The offensive line also will be scrutinized, but it's not as iffy as the running game.

Defensive strengths: There are players returning in every area. The strongest part of the defense should be the secondary, with safeties Cedric Walton and James McIntyre. Sam Manuel leads a strong linebacking crew.

Defensive weaknesses: New Mexico State usually is not a strong defensive team; it yielded an average of 445 yards per game last year. The line failed to put much pressure on quarterbacks, which placed the defensive backs in peril.

Special teams: Kicker Bubba Culin and punter Chad Zecha haven't sparkled, but they've been solid. They are heading into their fourth season as starters. The return teams could be hurting after the loss of Parrish Foster, one of the country's best kick returners.

Keys to success: Ledbetter needs to stay healthy. He missed the last four games because of injury last season. Both lines need to improve.

Outlook: The defense should be better, but how much is anyone's guess. Still, this is a team that should improve greatly on its 3-8 record of a year ago. But contending for the title probably is too much of a reach.

Coach Jim Hess says: "We don't say anything about anything. We're going to see what happens this time around. Every time I've been optimistic, I've had it stuck up my butt. So I'm not going to be optimistic, and I'm not going to be pessimistic. I'm going to be straight neutral."

AGGIES DATA

Coach: Jim Hess (17-38, 6 years; 129-91-5 overall; 21 years)

1994 record: 3-8. Big West: 2-4/7th

Key losses: Parrish Foster, CB; Tony Gray, LB; Tim Holland, OT; David Osborn, WR; Brian Pizula, RB; Gerald Slovacek, C; Brian Stewart, LB; Lawrence Truehill, FB; Dwayne Walkower, DE

Starters returning: Offense (6): Keelin Boulware, T, 6-4/285. Jr., Lucious Davis, FL, 5-11/170, Sr., Heath Hodge, T, 6-3/275. Sr., Cody Ledbetter, QB, 6-2/205, Sr., Sean Manuel, TE, 6-3/244.

Sr., Greg Snyder, G, 6-4/298, Sr. Defense (7): Jerry Atkinson, E, 6-1/230, Jr., Bernie Johnson, T, 6-3/276, Sr., Sam Manuel, LB, 6-3/240, Sr. Andy Martinez, T, 6-1/290, Jr., James McIntyre, SS, 6-0/200, Jr., Donald Veasley, CB, 5-9/175, Sr. Cedric Walton, FS, 5-9/192, Sr. Kickers (2): Bubba Culin, K, 6-3/200, Sr. Chad Zecha, P, 6-0/215, Sr.

Other key returnees: Matt Bolone, LB, Jr., Kirk Compton, RB, Sr. Duane Gregory, WR, Soph. Mike Harvey, CB, Jr., Dean LaChapelle, OE, Sr. (RS/Back), Adrian Lomas, DE, Sr. (RS/Back), Mark Mitchell, SS, Soph. Mickey Murray, RB, Sr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Compton (46 att., 191 yds., 1 TD); Passing: Ledbetter (247 att., 120 comp., 6 INT, 11 TD, 1,578 yds.); Receiving: Davis (54 rec., 985 yds., 11 TD); Tackler: Walton (99); Sackler: Mitchell (1)

Top newcomers: Sean LeCluse, LB, Jr. (JC) Denver Manns, RB, Fr. Chad Salisbury, QB, Fr.

Site: Las Cruces, N.M. Stadium: Aggie Memorial Stadium (30,343)

Last league title won: None

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Texas-El Paso	Oct. 14 —at SW Louisiana
Sept. 9 —Nevada	Oct. 21 —Utah State
Sept. 16 —at Georgia	Nov. 4 —at Pacific
Sept. 23 —at New Mexico	Nov. 11 —San Jose State
Sept. 30 —at Iowa	Nov. 18 —at UNLV
Oct. 7 —Louisiana Tech	



Lucious Davis helps provide New Mexico State with a Big West-must: a strong passing game.

5. UTAH STATE

Offensive strengths: Abu Wilson leads a strong running game. He will have a more experienced line to run behind, too. The line was ravaged by injuries last season, and a lot of young players received valuable playing time.

Offensive weaknesses: The Aggies could not find a suitable quarterback last year, so they recruited three for this year. They need one to step forward, perhaps Patrick Mullins. He led Georgia Military College to a No. 12 ranking among the nation's junior colleges last season.

Defensive strengths: The line, maybe. Most of the returnees on defense play on the line, and they have the ability to play different positions. The loss of tackle Dave Balls hurts.

Defensive weaknesses: Six defensive backs have departed, so opposing quarterbacks could have fun throwing deep against the Aggies. But three promising backups do return.

Special teams: Kevin Alexander is the best kick returner in the league. Micah Knorr is one of the Big West's better kickers.

Keys to success: All the youngsters who gained unexpected experience last season need to come through, and a quality quarterback must be found.

Outlook: Injuries killed the Aggies in 1994. They began the season with 105 players and ended with 63. Then they lost their coach, Charlie Weatherbie, to Navy. John L. Smith, the former head man at Idaho, takes over. He inherits a young team that should finish better than 3-8.

Coach John L. Smith says: "We are looking for immediate success. We always are, but we have to be realistic and realize to build a good program you're not going to do it with a quick fix. I'm not a big believer in junior colleges. I believe you have to do it with freshmen and recruit freshmen every year."

AGGIES DATA

Coach: John L. Smith (1st year; 53-21 overall; 6 years)

1994 record: 3-8. Big West: 2-4/7th

Key losses: Dave Balls, DT; Gary Brown, LB; Paul Gustafson, SS; Mike Hamilton, TE; Charles McMillan, CB; Travis Schow, FS; Donald Toomer, CB; Jared Tuione, G;

Johnnie Williams, DE.

Starters returning: Offense (9): Kevin Alexander, SE, 5-10/174, Sr.; Shawn Gnsword, TE, 6-2/255, Sr.; Robert Holmes, C, 6-3/269, Sr.; Novich Hunter, T, 6-2/263, Sr.; Darin Mitchell, G, 6-4/278, Jr.; Ivy Russell, WR, 5-7/184, Sr.; Shawn Turner, FL, 6-2/202, Jr.; Matt Wells, QB, 6-1/184, Jr.; Abu Wilson, RB, 6-1/202, Sr. Defense (4): Sean Coleman, SS, 5-9/185, Sr.; David Gill, LB, 6-0/239, Jr.; Matt Hawk, T, 6-2/236, Sr.; Danio Robinson, E, 6-1/233, Jr. Kickers (2): Micah Knorr, K, 6-1/178, Jr.; Nathan Morreale, P, 5-11/189, Jr. Other key returnees: Corey Alexander, CB, Sr.; Ben Crosland, DT, Soph.; Brian Davies, G, Soph. (RS/Knee); Brandon Dyson, OT, Soph.; Kanyatta Green, LB, Sr.; Jalonn Harrison, WR, Jr. (RS); Markell McCain, FS, Sr. (RS/Ankle); Spencer Waggoner, CB, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Wilson (158 att., 822 yds., 4 TD); Passing: Wells (311 att., 153 comp., 11 INT, 11 TD, 1,812 yds.); Receiving: Turner (43 rec., 563 yds., 2 TD); Tackler: Gill (89); Sackler: Gill (3)

Top newcomers: Walter Fietta, DT, Soph.; Troy Kama, G, Jr. (JC); Patrick Mullins, QB, Jr. (JC); Marcus Scott, LB, Fr. (RS)

Site: Logan, Utah. Stadium: Romney Stadium (30,257)

Last league title won: 1993 (tie)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Arkansas State	Oct. 21 —at New Mexico St.
Sept. 9 —Boise State	Oct. 28 —at Utah
Sept. 16 —Southern Mississippi	Nov. 4 —Nevada
Sept. 30 —at San Jose State	Nov. 11 —at JNLY
Oct. 7 —Colorado State	Nov. 18 —Pacific
Oct. 14 —Northern Illinois	

6. LOUISIANA TECH

Offensive strengths: The arrival of junior-college transfer Lee Ragsdale should give a tremendous boost to the running game. The Bulldogs also added LSU transfer Josh Bradley, who is expected to start at tight end. Quarterback Jason Martin returns after a rough '94 season, but he should show some improvement.

Offensive weaknesses: While Martin does have talent, he still needs to show it. That won't be easy without a deep threat. There have been some key losses in the middle of the line.

Defensive strengths: The linebacking should be strong, but it's a mixed bag elsewhere. Look for quality production from the ends and cornerbacks.

Defensive weaknesses: The secondary must stop giving up big plays, but it could use some help in the form of a better pass rush.

Special teams: Dean Jackson was a decent punt returner last season, and kicker Marty Kent also was solid. But Jackson isn't likely to break a long one, and Kent's ability to hit from long range is unknown. Punter Jason Cain has a good leg but was inconsistent.

Keys to success: The Bulldogs must do something about their pass defense, whether it's putting more pressure on the quarterback or improving their coverage, or both. Ragsdale has to spark the offense.

Outlook: The foundation appears solid. Louisiana Tech had an outstanding recruiting year to go along with some of the quality players already in place. But the payoff won't come this season.

Coach Joe Raymond Peace says: "For two years, the offense hasn't been very productive. It may be youth, it may be whatever. I don't know. The offense needed a boost (Gary Crowton was hired as coordinator). It needed a change."

BULLDOGS DATA

Coach: Joe Raymond Peace (35-38-4, 7 years)

1994 record: 3-8. Big West: 1-5/9th

Key losses: Chris Block, G; Brad Bull, C; Jason Cooper, RB; Chris Gray, CB; Thedrick Harris, DT; Matt Massey, SS; Fred Price, LB; Steve Roberts, DT; Reggie Van Duren, FS

Continued

Starters returning: Offense (8): Dean Jackson, WR, 5-10/180, Jr.; Chad Mackey, SE, 6-2/194, Jr.; Jason Martin, QB, 6-3/220 Jr.; Mike Mote, G, 6-2/270, Sr.; John Rogers, T, 6-5/272, Sr.; Eric Sululovich, TE, 6-3/222, Jr.; Cedric Williams, WR, 5-11/170, Soph.; Grant Williams, T, 6-7/305, Sr. Defense (5): William Flowers, E, 6-3/234, Jr.; Shannon Jenkins, LB, 5-11/208, Sr.; Lance Reed, LB, 6-0/206, Sr.; Willie Smith, CB, 5-10/175, Jr.; Keith Washington, E, 6-3/240, Sr. Kickers (2): Jason Cain, P, 5-8/180, Sr.; Marty Kent, K, 5-9/160, Soph.

Other key returnees: Jason Armstrong, RB, Soph.; Shane Carigan, LB, Sr.; Demick Moore, DT, Sr.; Howard Thornton, DT, Jr.; Preston Washington, TE, Sr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Armstrong (82 att., 259 yds., 2 TD); Passing: Martin (342 att., 160 comp., 15 INT, 4 TD, 1,882 yds.); Receiving: Jackson (82 rec., 790 yds., 0 TD); Tackler: Reed (95); Sackler: K. Washington (7)

Top newcomers: Josh Bradley, TE, Soph. (transfer/Louisiana State); Lee Ragsdale, RB, Jr. (JC)

Site: Ruston, La. Stadium: Joe Allet Stadium (30,600)

Last league title won: None

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Bowling Green	Oct. 14 —at Pacific
Sept. 9 —at Houston	Oct. 21 —Nevada
Sept. 16 —at South Carolina	Nov. 4 —at SW Louisiana
Sept. 23 —Arkansas State	Nov. 11 —at Vanderbilt
Sept. 30 —Tulsa (in Shreveport, La.)	Nov. 18 —Northern Illinois
Oct. 7 —at New Mexico State	

7. ONLY

Offensive strengths: Despite heavy losses, some key players return. Both quarterbacks who split time last season are back. So is running back DeJohn Branch and some key linemen. If Demond Thompkins regains academic eligibility, he'll be one of the most dangerous receivers in the Big West.

Offensive weaknesses: UNLV's offense wasn't great last season, but somehow it kept scoring just enough points. Wide receivers Henry Bailey and Randy Gatewood were two major reasons why, and both are gone. If Thompkins isn't eligible, the Rebels will be hurting for receivers.

Defensive strengths: Rossie Johnson is a quality linebacker, but outside of him there isn't much.

Defensive weaknesses: Last season, UNLV won games mostly because of defense. But only three starters return, and adequately replacing the players lost probably will take longer than this season.

Special teams: Kicker Nick Garritano and punter Brad Faunce are gone. In 1994, Garritano merely had the best season any Big West kicker has had. A walk-on may take his place, and Todd Floyd, a quarterback, could be asked to punt.

Keys to success: UNLV had a terrific recruiting season, and the Rebels will need some of those youngsters to produce this year.

Outlook: Not good for this season. UNLV simply took too many hits to graduation. The Rebels should be tough to beat in the future, but by then they'll be in the Western Athletic Conference (1996).

Coach Jeff Horton says: "We expect to defend our championship. We'll be picked fifth, sixth or seventh—if that high—because of the players we lost. The kids think we can win. They had a taste of success last year. They hope to carry momentum into the WAC now."

RECORD DATA

Coach: Jeff Horton (7-5, 1 year; 14-9 overall, 2 years)
1994 record: 7-5 (beat Central Michigan in Las Vegas Bowl).
Big West: 5-1/1st

Key losses: Henry Bailey, FL, Randy Brewer, TE, Mark Byers, LB; DeShannon Campbell, DT; Keith Clough, LB; Jason Davis, QB; Brad Faunce, P; Nick Garritano, K; Randy Gatewood, WR; Daemon Keener, WR; Rodney Mazzon, SS; Mark Meacham, OT; Howard McGowan, G; Brittney Posey, LB;



Aside from linebacker Rossie Johnson, the UNLV defense lacks bite.

Marvin Robinson, CB; Keith Washington, DE
Starters returning: Offense (5): DeJohn Branch, TB, 5-10/205, Jr.; Jared Brown, QB, 5-11/190, Sr.; Jose Gonzalez, C, 6-0/245, Sr.; Robbie Morrison, G, 6-4/290, Sr.; Dennis Whitmore, T, 6-5/265, Jr. Defense (3): Paul Carrillo, NG, 6-2/275, Sr.; Rossie Johnson, LB, 6-4/245, Sr.; Jermaine Webster, CB, 5-10/175, Jr. Kickers: None

Other key returnees: Kwame Coleman, WR, Soph.; Jason Davis, QB, Sr.; Todd Floyd, QB, Soph.; Marvin Robinson, LB, Sr.; Demond Thompkins, WR, Sr. (RS/academics); Chris White, DE, Soph.; Shannon Wilson, RB, Sr.
Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Branch (90 att., 374 yds., 4 TD); Passing: Davis (267 att., 130 comp., 14 INT, 12 TD, 1,539 yds.); Receiving: David White (16 rec., 136 yds., 0 TD); Tackler: Johnson (78); Sackler: Johnson (3.5)

Top newcomers: Tony Burton, RB, Jr. (JC/RS); Carlos Hilliard, DB, Jr. (JC); Mike Reilly, OT, Fr. (RS); Jason Toohay, WR, Soph. (transfer/Nevada); Justin Trammell, G, Fr. (RS)
Site: Las Vegas Stadium: Sam Boyd Stadium (32,000)
Last league title won: 1994 (1st)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Rice	Oct. 14 —at San Jose St.
Sept. 9 —Arkansas State	Oct. 28 —at Nevada
Sept. 16 —at Eastern Michigan	Nov. 4 —North Texas
Sept. 23 —at Iowa State	Nov. 11 —Utah State
Sept. 30 —Hawaii	Nov. 18 —New Mexico St.
Oct. 7 —at Northern Illinois	

8. PACIFIC

Offensive strengths: Joe Abdullah could be the best running back in the conference. With an improved line, he should have little trouble having another 1,000-yard season.

Offensive weaknesses: Junior-college transfer Chad Fotheringham will be given every chance to start at quarterback. If he doesn't work out, the Tigers will be in serious trouble, putting more pressure on Abdullah.

Defensive strengths: Defense? At Pacific? If there is a positive, it would be at inside linebacker, where Vince Bruno, Bill Denny, Ty Locatelli and Ed Tatola return.

Defensive weaknesses: Everywhere. Help is needed on the line, at outside linebacker and in the secondary.

Special teams: Roger Fleenor was so-so as a punter/kicker in his 1994 freshman season. He has time to improve.

Keys to success: Fotheringham must produce, and the defense must contribute.

Outlook: Pacific came from almost nowhere last season to challenge for the Big West crown. But the Tigers have lost too many players, including their quarterback.

Even so, Coach Chuck Shelton insists this team will be better. That will be difficult.
Coach Chuck Shelton says: "I think more than anything, (last season) proved we could do it. When you don't have a winning season in 17 years, everybody kind of thrives on that. From the standpoint of making people believe we're not a junior high pretending to be a football team, it helps us in recruiting when we talk to people."

TIGERS DATA

Coach: Chuck Shelton (12-21, 3 years; 78-119-1 overall, 18 years)

1994 record: 6-5 Big West, 4-2/4th

Key losses: Kerry Brown, WR; Darius Cunningham, CB; Aaron McClellan, C; Matt McGinn, OT; Charles Miller, DT; Jeff Russell, FS; Brad Stammer, DT; Duane Thomas, CB; Craig Wheihan, QB

Starters returning: Offense (8): Joe Abdullah, RB, 6-0/206, Sr.; Eric Atkins, WR, 5-8/165, Sr.; Kerry Blakney, FB, 5-11/233, Sr.; Ryan Green, TE, 6-5/225, Jr.; Brandon Kane, T, 6-3/289, Sr.; Tyrone Watley, WR, 5-10/174, Jr.; Dan Weldon, G, 6-5/305, Sr.; Justin Werth, G, 6-2/281, Jr. Defense (5): Vince Bruno, LB, 6-2/226, Jr.; Elliot Burke, LB, 6-3/251, Sr.; Rodney Campbell, DB, 5-10/178, Sr.; Bill Denny, LB, 6-1/224, Sr.; Jason Evans, T, 6-1/267, Jr. Kicker (1): Roger Fleenor, PK, 6-1/177, Soph.

Other key returnees: Tafa Jefferson, OT, Sr.; Ty Locatelli, LB, Soph.; Damon Perasso, DT, Soph.; Nick Sellers, QB, Sr.; Ray Salkes, DB, Sr.; Ed Tatola, LB, Sr.; Greg Weston, WR, Jr.; Steve Wright, DT, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Abdullah (250 att., 1,075 yds., 7 TD); Passing: Sellers (110 att., 60 comp., 4 INT, 3 TD, 685 yds.); Receiving: Atkins (53 rec., 791 yds., 5 TD); Tackler: Bruno (69); Sackler: Wright (2)

Top newcomers: Chad Fotheringham, QB, Jr. (JC); Jim Mohamed, DL, Jr. (JC); Chris Rainey, DL, Jr. (JC)
Site: Stockton, Calif. Stadium: Stagg Memorial Stadium (30,000)

Last league title won: None

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Arizona	Oct. 21 —at SW Louisiana
Sept. 9 —Oregon State	Oct. 28 —at San Jose St.
Sept. 16 —at Fresno State	Nov. 4 —New Mexico St.
Sept. 23 —at Nebraska	Nov. 11 —Nevada
Oct. 7 —at Oregon	Nov. 18 —at Utah State
Oct. 14 —Louisiana Tech	

9. SAN JOSE STATE

Offensive strengths: Finding someone to throw the ball shouldn't be a problem. Wide receivers David Doyle and Brian Lundy are back, as is tight end Brian Roche, a second-team All-Big West selection.

Offensive weaknesses: Improvements can be made in many areas. Quarterback Alli Abrew threw 11 interceptions last season. The line, which returns four starters, gave up 42 sacks. The running game, which will hold a lottery to find a starting back, averaged just 87.5 yards a game.

Defensive strengths: Among the few bits of good news last year was the improved play of the secondary late in the season. Fortunately for San Jose State, three of the starters are back.

Defensive weaknesses: Players are being moved around in hopes of improving the line and the linebacking. Although many players return in both areas, the fact the coaches are scrambling to find the right positions for them is not a good sign.

Special teams: The Spartans lost two positions in one player when punter/kicker Joe Nedney departed. Three players will compete for the kicking duties, and Jason Chapple is expected to do the punting.

Keys to success: The defenders must successfully adjust to their new positions, experience must pay off on the offensive line, and a quality running back must be found.

Outlook: The Spartans have a few things to build on—experience, some quality players—but they haven't yet proven they can get the job done. San Jose State must prove it can compete in the Big West if it hopes to do well in the Western Athletic Conference beginning in 1996.

Coach John Ralston says: "It isn't fair to the present football team if we don't concentrate on this year. We don't want to think about the WAC."

SPARTAN DATA

Coach: John Ralston (5-17, 2 years, 91-64-4 overall, 15 years)

1994 record: 3-8, Big West: 3-3/75th

Key losses: Dan Godfrey, LB, Robert Gregory, DT, Tim Holiday, FB; Theron Miller, LB; Joe Nedney, K/P, Jerry Reese, WR, Carlos Rivera, OT, Jacob Williams, WR, Chris Willis, SS

Starters returning: Offense (7): Ali Abrew, QB, 6-1/195, Jr.; John Grootegoed, G, 6-1/290, Sr.; Chris Hill, C, 6-2/258, Sr.; Brian Roche, TE, 6-5/231, Sr.; Mike Snel, G, 6-3/275, Sr. Saifol Tautuaa, T, 6-2/315, Sr.; Patrick Walsh, TB, 5-8/185, Jr.

Defense (8): Howard Butler, NG, 6-1/265, Sr.; Wardell Crutchfield, CB, 5-8/170, Soph.; David Elzey, LB, 5-11/230, Sr.; Marcus Galbreath, FS, 5-9/196, Sr.; Jacob Malae, LB, 6-1/220, Jr.; Greg Phillips, LB, 6-2/238, Sr.; Maurice Simpson, CB, 5-7/180, Jr.; Tom Sotelo, T, 6-1/246, Sr. Kickers: None.

Other key returnees: Charlie Adams, FB, Sr.; David Doyle, WR, Sr.; Donald Lindsey, TB, Sr.; Brian Lundy, WR, Sr. (RS/academics); Curtice Macfarlane, OT, Soph.; Jerold Perry, DT, Soph.; Eric Quarles, LB, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Walsh (119 att., 483 yds., 3 TD); Passing: Abrew (270 att., 135 comp., 11 INT, 10 TD, 1,743 yds.); Receiving: Doyle (32 rec., 552 yds., 3 TD); Tackler: Galbreath (78); Sackler: Sotelo (3)

Top newcomers: Jason Chapple, P, Fr.; Carl Dean, QB, Jr. (JC/RS); Joe Furlow, K, Jr. (JC/RS); Marc Goodson, LB, Jr. (JC); Carlos Meeks, TB, Fr. (RS); Tucker Seiberberg, S, Jr. (JC/RS); Kurt Strauss, OT, Fr. (RS); Dominic Walker, LB, Fr. (RS)

Site: San Jose, Calif. Stadium: Spartan Stadium (31,218)

Last league title won: 1991

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Stanford	Oct. 21 —at San Diego St.
Sept. 9 —at S. California	Oct. 28 —Pacific
Sept. 16 —Northern Illinois	Nov. 4 —at Arkansas St.
Sept. 23 —at California	Nov. 11 —at New Mexico St.
Sept. 30 —Utah State	Nov. 18 —at Nevada
Oct. 14 —UNLV	



Tight end Brian Roche figures to be a favorite target of San Jose State quarterbacks.

10. ARKANSAS STATE

Offensive strengths: Very few. Actually, the receivers should be OK. Derrick Austin and Reginald Murphy are good, and freshman recruit Maurice Thomas—an all-stater from Florida—could have an immediate impact.

Offensive weaknesses: Arkansas State finished last in the conference in 1994 in total offense, scoring offense and passing offense. Improvement is needed everywhere.

Defensive strengths: This isn't quite as worrisome as the offense. The Indians are set at safety, and the starting line is solid. The only problem is a lack of depth—tackle Carlo White sustained a serious knee injury in the season finale, so his effectiveness is unknown.

Defensive weaknesses: Injuries would kill the defense. If Arkansas State has to dig into its bench, the Indians will be in trouble. They might be anyway.

Special teams: This may be the strongest part of the team. Kyle Richardson averaged 42.1 yards a punt last season, and Jeff Caldwell made nine of 11 field-goal attempts. Over the past two seasons, Caldwell has converted 23 of 28.

Keys to success: No injuries and the emergence of a passing game.

Outlook: The schedule is much easier than it was a year ago, and the Indians were in some games last season. They can avoid last place, but anything more is asking too much.

Coach John Bobo says: "I'd like to think we have a chance to grow. When you have seven road games (like last season), you have no chance to grow."

INDIAN DATA

Coach: John Bobo (3-18-1, 2 years)

1994 record: 1-10, Big West: 0-6/10th

Key losses: Jeremy Blohowiak, G; Stacy Crockett, CB, Brad Davis, CB, Stacy Harrell, G; Lorenzo Parker, C; Ed Rufus, NG; DelRay Stephens, LB

Starters returning: Offense (8): Derrick Austin, WR, 6-2/180, Sr.; Johnny Covington, QB, 6-0/185, Sr.; Zae Freeman, RB, 6-2/190, Sr.; Roy James, T, 6-5/300, Sr.; Clark McBride, TE, 6-2/235, Sr.; Jerome McIntosh, WR, 5-11/170, Sr.; Jesse Miller, G, 6-1/270, Sr.; Corey Walker, RB, 5-10/185, Jr.

Defense (7): Carlos Emmons, E, 6-4/240, Sr.; Maurice Harris, SS, 6-0/210, Sr.; Rodney Hawthorne, LB, 5-9/210, Sr.; Gary Jackson, E, 6-3/220, Jr.; Bryan Singleton, LB, 5-11/215, Sr.; Clark Watkins, FS, 5-11/180, Sr.; Carlo White, T, 6-1/270, Sr. Kickers (2): Jeff Caldwell, K, 5-11/165, Jr.; Kyle Richardson, P, 6-2/180, Jr.

Other key returnees: Stefan Gamlin, DT, Sr.; Reginald Murphy, WR, Jr.; Torrance Suggs, LB, Jr.; Austin Tinsley, FB, Jr. (RS/injury)

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Walker (175 att., 630 yds., 2 TD); Passing: Covington (185 att., 85 comp., 5 INT, 6 TD, 830 yds.); Receiving: Austin (27 rec., 347 yds., 2 TD); Tackler: Emmons (72); Sackler: Emmons, White, Jackson (2)

Top newcomers: Daniel Alvares, DL, Fr.; MaQuonzie Thomas, DE, Fr.; Maurice Thomas, WR, Fr.

Site: Jonesboro, Ark. Stadium: Indian Stadium (33,410)

Last league title won: None

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Utah State	Oct. 14 —at Texas Tech
Sept. 9 —at UNLV	Oct. 28 —Jacksonville St.
Sept. 16 —Southern Illinois	Nov. 4 —San Jose State
Sept. 23 —at Louisiana Tech	Nov. 11 —at N. Illinois
Sept. 30 —at Minnesota	Nov. 18 —Mississippi Valley St.
Oct. 7 —Southwestern Louisiana	

Mark Anderson covers the Big West for the Reno (Nev.) Gazette-Journal.

BURNING QUESTION

What does the future hold for the Big West?

For those of you weary of all the conference realignment that has taken place in college sports in recent years, be forewarned.

It's not over yet.

The Big West's four Eastern schools (Arkansas State, Louisiana Tech, Northern Illinois and Southwestern Louisiana) must decide soon whether to try to get the minimum six teams they need to form their own division or leave the league. If they become independents, that would leave just seven football-playing schools in the Big West after Boise State, Idaho and North Texas join the league in 1996 (and San Jose State and UNLV leave).

Conference coaches would like to keep the league intact.

"I think it would be stupid, arrogant, ignorant and dumb to separate the schools," said New Mexico State Coach Jim Hess, who said he is willing to take his team to the Eastern division if that means keeping the league together. That would leave the East needing just one more school to form a division.

The most likely candidates to join the East would be Northeast Louisiana, Central Florida and East Carolina. Alabama-Birmingham is another possibility. UCF and UAB become Division I-A schools in 1996.

The Big West's Eastern schools are being forced to make a decision because the athletic directors at Pacific and Utah State would rather play opponents from the West. They don't believe playing Eastern foes at home helps attendance and, in fact, may hurt it. Plus, it's expensive to travel far distances. Many Big West schools are looking for ways to cut costs.

The coaches favor a division system, which would include a season-ending playoff game to determine which team advances to the Las Vegas Bowl.

In 1996, San Jose State and UNLV will leave the Big West to join the Western Athletic Conference. Boise State, Idaho and North Texas come in, but Idaho is unable to meet Division I-A standards for football and will remain Division I-AA in that sport.

But the addition of Idaho only compounds the league's perception problem. The Big West actually was rated below the Division I-AA Big Sky Conference in the power ratings in '94. "If you measure it simply by football, we have a credibility problem," said Rob Halvaks, associate commissioner of the Big West. "In all other sports, the credibility is solid."

"Unfortunately, football is the measurement across the country."

—MARK ANDERSON

SCOUTING THE BIG WEST

BIG WEST

Ascending: Utah State. A season after being torn apart by injuries, the Aggies bring back all those young players who suddenly were thrust into the fray last year. Utah State also has a new coaching staff, headed by John L. Smith, who ran Big Sky power Idaho. Smith was able to lure Bob Petrino, the coordinator of Nevada's high-powered offense, to the staff.

Descending: UNLV. Only temporarily, though. The Rebels are more concerned with how they're going to perform in the Western Athletic Conference in 1996 than how they will finish out their Big West membership this season. This young team could be a force in the future, but not now.

Nightmare schedule: Pacific. The Tigers play at Nebraska, Oregon, Arizona and Fresno State. They also host Oregon State. Even by Big West standards, that is a tough non-conference slate.

Dream schedule: Arkansas State. The Indians host Division I-AA Southern Illinois, Mississippi Valley State and Jacksonville State. Even Arkansas State should win with this schedule.

Best matchup of the year: Southwestern Louisiana at Nevada, September 2. Why these teams are meeting this early in the season is anyone's guess. These are the league's two best teams, and the Big West representative in the Las Vegas Bowl could be decided here.

Worst matchup of the year: Pacific at Nebraska, September 23. The Cornhuskers crushed the Tigers, 70-21, last season. Considering Pacific might not be as good, don't expect the score to be any closer.

Shocker of the year: Colorado State at Utah State, October 7. After losing 11 starters, WAC champion Colorado State could be vulnerable. Plus, Utah State should be much better than last season, and the Aggies will have the home-field advantage.

Bowl bound: Nevada. The Wolf Pack has all the ingredients to win the conference and go to the Las Vegas Bowl. It also has motivation of coming close each of the past two seasons.

Biggest shoes to fill: Southwestern Louisiana safety Orlando Thomas'. He was the Big West's Defensive Player of the Year each of the past two seasons. Whoever takes his place won't have much help: Three of the team's four defensive backs from last year are gone.

Most underrated player: UNLV quarterback Jared Brown. He doesn't dazzle with unbelievable plays or put up stunning numbers. He just wins. Despite sharing time with Jason Davis, Brown led the Rebels down the stretch last season, directing them to huge victories over Nevada (to advance to the Las Vegas Bowl) and Central Michigan (in the Las Vegas Bowl).

Most overrated player: Arkansas State running back Corey Walker. He averaged just 3.6 yards a carry (630 yards total) but

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive backfield:	Nevada
Best wide receiver:	Nevada
Best offensive line:	Southwestern Louisiana
Best defensive line:	Northern Illinois
Best linebackers:	New Mexico State
Best secondary:	San Jose State
Best special teams:	Arkansas State
Hardest hitter:	Jeff Machett, DE, Southwestern Louisiana
Best backup quarterback:	Jason Davis, UNLV
Best pro prospect:	Alex Van Dyke, WR, Nevada
Best stadium:	Romney Stadium (Utah State)
Best rivalry:	Nevada-UNLV

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. Nevada (Best recruit: RB Avery Cummings)
The Wolf Pack also signed junior college All-Americans Desmond Williams, Mike Guder, Molech Blythe and Soma Hoku.
2. Louisiana Tech (RB Lee Ragsdale)
3. UNLV (RB Dahnn Footman)
4. Southwestern Louisiana (TE Mark Buford)
5. Northern Illinois (RB Scott Florence)
6. Utah State (QB Patrick Mullins)
7. San Jose State (LB Marc Goodson)
8. Arkansas State (WR Maurice Thomas)
9. Pacific (QB Chad Fotheringham)
10. New Mexico State (DB Jeffrey Thompson)



Expect Nevada's Mike Maxwell to again be the Big West Offensive Player of the Year.

was an honorable mention All-Big West choice by league coaches.

Best head coach: Chris Ault, Nevada. It's hard to argue with his accomplish-

ments. He took a Division II program in 1976, turned it into a I-AA power and eventually moved it into I-A. Mackay Stadium, which has grown from 7,500 seats to 31,545, should be named after him.

Best coaching staff: New Mexico State. Coach Jim Hess does a fine job, but his staff plays a valuable role. The results will be evident this season.

Coach on the hot seat: John Bobo, Arkansas State. A year ago, Athletic Director Brad Hovious gave Bobo an impossible schedule and caught a lot of heat for doing so. Now Hovious has given Bobo a much easier schedule, signaling that if Bobo can't win now, a new coach may be needed.

Best bets: Coaches Jeff Horton of UNLV and Chris Ault of Nevada will take verbal shots at each all season, either disguised or overt. . . . The conference again will be rated the weakest in the country in the Sagarin ratings, but its representative will win the Las Vegas Bowl for the third consecutive year. . . . UNLV will win one or two big games, and no one in Las Vegas will notice. . . . John L. Smith will make Utah State fans forget about former coach Charlie Weatherbie. . . . Many Big West football scores will resemble basketball scores. . . . Nevada quarterback Mike Maxwell will repeat as conference Offensive Player of the Year, but teammate/wide receiver Alex Van Dyke will be the league's best player.

Odds and ends: Arkansas State is mourning the death of middle linebacker Dedrick Greenleaf, who was killed in a freak accident over Christmas break. He was on his way home to Kildare, Texas, when he spotted a deer. Being a hunter, Greenleaf pulled his vehicle over and grabbed his 20-gauge shotgun. The weapon discharged accidentally, killing him. . . . San Jose State is marking its 100th year of intercollegiate football this season. . . . Spartans Coach John Ralston, 68, is the only member of the College Football Hall of Fame currently active. . . . The Big West has had multiple champions in three of the past four years. Before 1991, the conference went 12 consecutive years with a single champion. . . . With an eye toward entering the WAC in 1996, all but one of UNLV's signees was a high school player. . . . John Dutton, a backup quarterback at Texas, transferred to Nevada during the off-season. He will sit out this season and have two seasons of eligibility left. . . . San Jose State's new defensive line coach is Rubin Carter, who had held that position as well as defensive coordinator duties at Howard University the past five years. Carter, who played 12 seasons with the Denver Broncos, is reunited with Ralston, who drafted him in the fifth round of the 1975 NFL draft when Ralston was coaching the Broncos.

—MARK ANDERSON

1. NOTRE DAME

Offensive strengths: Ron Powlus had a tremendous debut. Really. He threw for 1,729 yards and a school-record 19 touchdowns, with only nine interceptions. Powlus needs to improve his completion percentage (53.6), but he kept producing despite taking a beating all season. He'll be more comfortable this year, thanks to better health along the offensive line. That will give him more time to find wide receiver Derrick Mayes and give backs Randy Kinder, Robert Farmer and Marc Edwards more room to run.

Offensive weaknesses: Mayes is a true game-breaker, but he is the only real burner on the roster. Freshman receiver Randy Moss has potential and Kinder grabbed All-America honors in indoor track last winter, but the Irish are slow just about everywhere else.

Defensive strengths: Coordinator Bob Davie has begun transforming the defense into an attack-style unit, and he has some promising speedsters at several positions to work with. Melvin Dansby and Renaldo Wynn are solid ends, while Bert Berry, Lyron Cobbins and Kinnon Tatum have potential at linebacker. Free safety Brian Magee was Notre Dame's leading tackler last year.

Defensive weaknesses: The Irish lost seven starters on defense and must hope their heralded recruits of the past three years can step up, particularly at linebacker and defensive back. Don't be surprised to see true freshmen such as linebackers Kory Minor and Jimmy Friday and defensive back Mario Strayhorn in the lineup by season's end.

Special teams: This area was a disaster last year, and freshmen Kevin Kopka and Hunter Smith have shots at the kicking and punting jobs, respectively. Emmett Mosley averaged 24.6 yards on kickoff returns but only 4.4 on punts. Moss could help here.

Keys to success: The offensive line must stay healthy enough to provide stability for Powlus and the backs, and the youngsters on defense must produce. Both freshmen kickers need to contribute immediately, and Coach Lou Holtz must find a way to inject some speed throughout the lineup.

Outlook: The Irish are too young and slow to make a title run. Expect this to be a solid transition season for a run in '96. Powlus and the running game should be better, thanks to the healthy line. If the defense gels—hardly a guarantee—expect nine or 10 wins. The schedule won't help much, however. Although Notre Dame plays all three service academies and takes a break from Michigan, it visits Ohio State and Washington and hosts Texas, USC and Boston College. **Coach Lou Holtz says:** "I think last year was the most frustrating year I ever had as a football coach. We never got our problems solved, and usually by the end of the year, we can solve them."

FIGHTING IRISH DATA

Coach: Lou Holtz (83-24-2, 9 years, 1989-97 overall, 25 years).
1994 record: 6-5-1 (lost to Colorado in Fiesta Bowl)
Key losses: Lee Becton, TB; Travis Davis, SS; Oliver Gibson, NG; Justin Goheen, LB; Brian Hamilton, DE; Germana Holden, DE; Oscar McBride, TE; Jeremy Nau, LB; Jeremy Sample, LB; Bobby Taylor, CB (declared for NFL draft); Ray Zellars, FB.
Starters returning: Offense (8) Jeremy Akers, G, 6-5/281, Jr.; Chris Clevenger, T, 6-8/266, Soph.; Mike Doughty, T, 6-7/265, Soph.; Ryan Leahy, G, 6-4/299, Sr.; Derrick Mayes, SE, 6-1/221, Sr.; Ron Powlus, QB, 6-2/225, Soph.; Charles Stafford,

INDEPENDENTS

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. NOTRE DAME
2. LOUISVILLE
3. EAST CAROLINA
4. SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
5. MEMPHIS
6. TULSA
7. CINCINNATI
8. NORTHEAST LOUISIANA
9. TULANE
10. ARMY
11. NORTH TEXAS
12. NAVY

FL, 5-9/189, Sr.; Dusty Ziegler, C, 6-6/288, Jr. **Defense (4):** Paul Grasmanis, NG, 6-2/275, Sr.; Brian Magee, FS, 5-10/206, Sr.; Shawn Wooden, CB, 5-11/185, Sr.; Renaldo Wynn, E, 6-3/247, Jr. **Kicker (1):** Scott Genge, K, 5-9/180, Soph. **Other key returnees:** Bert Berry, LB, Jr. Pete Chryplewicz, TE, Sr.; Lyron Cobbins, LB, Jr.; Ivory Covington, CB, Soph.; Melvin Dansby, DE, Jr.; Marc Edwards, FB, Jr.; Robert Farmer, TB, Jr.; Randy Kinder, TB, Jr.; Thomas Knight, DE, Jr. (RS); LaRon Moore, SS, Sr. Emmett Mosley, FL/KR, Jr. Allen Rossum, CB, Soph.; Kinnon Tatum, LB, Jr. **Returning statistical leaders:** Rushing: Kinder (119 att., 702 yds., 4 TD); Passing: Powlus (222 att., 119 comp., 9 INT, 19 TD, 1,729 yds.); Receiving: Mayes (47 rec., 847 yds., 11 TD); Tackler: Magee (81); Sackler: Berry (6). **Top newcomers:** Jimmy Friday, LB, Fr.; Kevin Kopka, K, Fr.; Kory Minor, LB, Fr.; Randy Moss, WR, Fr.; Hunter Smith, P, Fr.; Jamie Spencer, FB, Fr.; Mario Strayhorn, DB, Fr. **Site:** South Bend, Ind. **Stadium:** Notre Dame Stadium (59,075)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Northwestern	Oct. 14 —at Army
Sept. 9 —at Purdue	Oct. 21 —S. California
Sept. 16 —Vanderbilt	Oct. 28 —Boston College
Sept. 23 —Texas	Nov. 4 —Navy
Sept. 30 —at Ohio State	Nov. 18 —at Air Force
Oct. 7 —at Washington	

2. LOUISVILLE

Offensive strengths: If former coach Howard Schnellenberger were still running the show, you could depend on quarterback Marty Lowe (nine touchdowns but 17 interceptions last season) to throw, throw, throw. But new Coach Ron Cooper, who arrives from Eastern Michigan with only 22 games of head-coaching experience on his resume (and therefore not much to judge him by), says he'll turn Lowe and his scrambling backup, Jason Payne, loose in a one-back set. But Cooper also loves to control the game between the tackles.

Offensive weaknesses: Of course, maybe Cooper will be forced to pass. Tackle Roman Oben is a crushing run-blocker and a potential first-round draft pick, and center Jason Stinson can hit people. But who is going to follow those two guys up the middle? The Cards might use a four-back rotation. Calvin Arrington gets first crack at carrying the

ball, but he has had trouble staying healthy. **Defensive strengths:** Cooper, a defensive assistant at Notre Dame in 1991-92, believes the linebacking corps of Tyrus McCloud, Johnny Frost and Alan Campos could start in South Bend, Ann Arbor or Tuscaloosa. They're fast, fearsome and nasty.

Defensive weaknesses: There's a reason McCloud, Campos and Frost ranked 1-2-4 in tackles on the team last season: The line wasn't hitting anybody. That's why the Cards were tortured by strong running teams like Army and Texas A&M.

Special teams: If kicker David Akers had made a couple of critical kicks last season, the Cards would have finished 8-3, not 6-5. He has great range but not much accuracy (he missed 2 of 6 field-goals attempts under 30 yards). Applications still are being accepted for the kicking and punting jobs. A woman (Kathy Klope) has applied.

Keys to success: The players must make a confident transition from Schnellenberger to Cooper. And somebody has to give the Cardinals a running game and take the running game away from opposing teams.

Outlook: This is a veteran team coming off consecutive winning seasons. Lowe is a solid leader and thrower who is surrounded by quality receivers. The linebackers not only stop people, they create turnovers. And the schedule has been fine-tuned for success (Texas, Arizona State, Pitt, Boston College and Texas A&M were dropped).

Coach Ron Cooper says: "I like everything I see. Coach Schnellenberger left this program in great shape."

CARDINALS DATA

Coach: Ron Cooper (1st year; 9-13 overall, 2 years).
1994 record: 6-5.
Key losses: Jamie Asher, TE; Kendall Brown, DE; Chris Fitzpatrick, FB; Shawn Jackson, WR; Terry Quinn, SS; Terrance Rozcoe, DE; Anthony Shelman, RB; Jermaine Williams, OT.
Starters returning: Offense (6): John Bell, SE, 6-1/181, Soph.; Shawn Kries, G, 5-11/273, Sr.; Marty Lowe, QB, 6-1/201, Sr.; Brenon Meadows, G, 6-3/271, Jr.; Roman Oben, T, 6-5/290, Sr.; Jason Stinson, C, 6-4/286, Sr. **Defense (8):** Tony Belhof, CB, 6-0/178, Jr.; Alan Campos, LB, 6-3/233, Sr.; Rico Clark, FS, 5-10/174, Jr.; Johnny Frost, LB, 6-2/243, Sr.; Allen Jones, T, 6-5/275, Sr.; Demek Lillard, T, 6-4/311, Sr.; Sam Madison, CB, 5-11/169, Jr.; Tyrus McCloud, LB, 6-2/237, Jr. **Kickers (1):** David Akers, K, 5-11/176, Jr. **Other key returnees:** Calvin Arrington, RB, Sr.; Robert Bates, WR, Soph.; Mike Bogan, TE, Soph.; Antonio Bradwell, DE, Soph.; Frank Fountain, RB, Soph.; John Fuqua, SS, Soph.; Kendrick Gholston, DE, Soph.; Matt Johnson, OT, Jr.; Rondel Marsh, DE, Soph.; Jason Payne, QB, Jr. **Returning statistical leaders:** Rushing: Payne (21 att., 85 yds., 1 TD); Passing: Lowe (319 att., 186 comp., 17 INT, 9 TD, 2,091 yds.); Receiving: Bell (34 rec., 473 yds., 1 TD); Tackler: McCloud (133); Sackler: Gholston (4). **Top newcomers:** Eric Coleman, WR/RB, Jr. (JC); Caswell Goodman, TE, Fr. (RS); Iton Green, TE, Fr.; Ikem Maduaka-Cain, DT, Fr. (RS); James Pasavento, DT, Fr. (RS); Mike Scott, DL, Jr. (JC). **Site:** Louisville, Ky. **Stadium:** Cardinal Stadium (35,500).

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Kentucky	Oct. 14 —at Wyoming
Sept. 9 —at Northern Illinois	Oct. 28 —Maryland
Sept. 16 —Michigan State	Nov. 4 —Tulane
Sept. 21 —North Carolina	Nov. 11 —NE Louisiana
Sept. 30 —at Memphis	Nov. 18 —North Texas
Oct. 7 —at Southern Miss	

3. EAST CAROLINA

Offensive strengths: Two words: Marcus Crandell. The junior quarterback has the ability to put up some impressive numbers if he has time to set up and throw. Receiver Mitchell Galloway is a big-play threat. Running back Jerris McPhail has game-breaking speed.

Continued

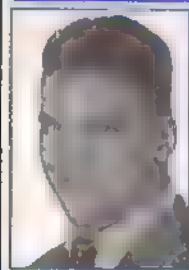
PRESEASON ALL-INDEPENDENTS TEAM

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE

RON POWLUS
QB, Notre Dame



DEFENSE

MARK LIBIANO
LB, East Carolina

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE: Randy Moss, WR, Notre Dame

DEFENSE: Kory Minor, LB, Notre Dame

COACH OF THE YEAR

Ron Cooper, Louisville

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	DERRICK MAYES, Notre Dame	6-1/221	Sr
WR	STEPHEN WILLIAMS, NE Louisiana	6-2/170	Sr
TE	PETE CHRYPLEWICZ, Notre Dame	6-5/267	Jr
T	ROMAN OBEN, Louisville	6-5/290	Sr
T	MIKE DOUGHTY, Notre Dame	6-7/285	Soph
G	ORLANDO BOBO, NE Louisiana	6-4/300	Sr
G	RYAN LEAHY, Notre Dame	6-4/299	Sr
C	DAVID MILLWEE, Tulsa	6-3/275	Sr
QB	RON POWLUS, Notre Dame	6-2/225	Soph
RB	RANDY KANDER, Notre Dame	6-1/210	Jr
RB	SOLOMON WHITE, Tulsa	5-8/180	Jr

DEFENSE

E	RENALDO WYNN, Notre Dame	6-3/247	Sr
NG	PAUL GRASMANIS, Notre Dame	6-2/275	Sr
T	BRIAN BARNETT, Memphis	6-0/270	Sr
E	SEDRIC CLARK, Tulsa	6-2/248	Sr
LB	MARK LIBIANO, East Carolina	6-3/235	Sr
LB	BERT BERRY, Notre Dame	6-3/228	Jr
LB	TYRUS McCLOUD, Louisville	6-2/237	Jr
CB	SHAWN WOODEN, Notre Dame	5-11/185	Sr
CB	DERRICK HERVEY, Southern Miss	5-9/180	Sr
S	BRIAN MAGEE, Notre Dame	5-10/206	Sr
S	JEROME WOODS, Memphis	6-4/190	Sr

SPECIALISTS

K	JAMES ANDERSON, Tulsa	6-0/175	Soph
P	MARK DeLOZIER, Tulsa	6-1/208	Sr
KR	LT GULLEY, Southern Miss	5-11/185	Sr

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	RYAN ROSKELLY, Memphis	5-10/170	Sr
WR	WES CASHWELL, Tulsa	5-9/165	Jr
TE	RON LESHINSKI, Army	6-3/245	Jr
T	RON SLODOTH, East Carolina	6-2/297	Jr
T	KEITH SETLER, Memphis	6-1/311	Sr
G	JOEL DAVIS, Army	6-4/290	Sr
G	ALEX DOMINO, Navy	6-4/294	Sr
C	DUSTY ZIEGLER, Notre Dame	6-6/288	Jr
QB	MARCUS CRANDELL, East Carolina	6-0/198	Jr
RB	AKI KING, Army	5-11/230	Sr
RB	CHRIS BUCKHALTER, Southern Miss	6-0/195	Sr

DEFENSE

E	MELVIN DANDY, Notre Dame	6-3/258	Jr
T	COCO BUTLER, Tulsa	6-1/275	Sr
T	KEITH COOK, Tulane	6-4/242	Jr
E	WILLIS HUDSON, North Texas	6-1/259	Sr
LB	JESSE ALLEN, Memphis	6-2/220	Jr
LB	FERNANDO HARRIS, Navy	6-1/215	Sr
LB	ALAN CAMPOS, Louisville	6-3/233	Sr
CB	MALCOLM WILLIAMS, Tulsa	5-10/175	Sr
CB	DAVID HART, East Carolina	5-10/185	Jr
S	SAM GARNES, Cincinnati	6-3/205	Jr
S	RICO CLARK, Louisville	5-10/174	Jr

SPECIALISTS

K	DAVID AKERS, Louisville	5-11/176	Jr
P	MATT LEVINE, East Carolina	5-9/195	Soph
KR	EMMETT MOSLEY, Notre Dame	5-9/182	Jr

Offensive weaknesses: Aside from Galloway and true freshman Troy Smith, the Pirates lack real quality at the receiver spot. The line, which yielded just nine sacks last year, has a couple of crucial holes to fill. McPhail has played only a complementary role the past two years; can he withstand the grind of starting?

Defensive strengths: ECU will have the same defensive coordinator (Paul Jette) in consecutive years for the first time since Steve Logan became coach in 1992. A bevy of experienced linebackers, led by Mark Libiano, are the heart and soul of the defense. Outside linebacker Morris Foreman has uncanny instincts and always is around the ball; Foreman also is the punt returner.

Defensive weaknesses: For a team that picked off 22 passes last year, the secondary remains a question mark because of a lack of size, a knee injury to Hank Cooper and the exit of position coach Chuck Pagano to Miami (Fla.). Depth is a real concern up front. Any injury, especially to tackle Walter Scott, could be devastating.

Special teams: Although things have improved substantially, this still is a concern. Kicker Chad Holcomb has been inconsistent and could be replaced by Matt Levine if he misses a couple of early chances. Levine, on the other hand, is an unpredictable punter.

Keys to success: The defensive line must stay healthy and generate a pass rush. Someone in the running game, either McPhail or one of several young backs, must emerge as a threat.

Outlook: The Pirates better be ready in September when trips to Tennessee, Syracuse and Illinois hit them square in the helmet. If an orange crush can be avoided, another berth in the Liberty Bowl is likely.

Coach Steve Logan says: "We had some seniors step up last year and carry this football team. We need that to happen again this year because the schedule we have provides us a real opportunity, not just regional but on a national scale."

VIRILITY RATE

Coach: Steve Logan (14-20, 3 years)
1994 record: 7-5 (lost to Illinois in Liberty Bowl)
Key losses: Willie Brooks, LB, Kan. Carroll, OT, John Krawczyk, DT, Junior Smith, RB, Terry Tighman, G
Starters returning: Offense (8): Marcus Crandell, QB, 6-0/198, Jr., Mitchell Galloway, H-Back, 5-10/159, Jr., Jamie Gray, G, 6-2/293, Jr., Jason Nichols, WR, 5-11/171, Soph., Sean Richardson, TE, 6-5/232, Jr., Larry Shannon, WR, 6-6/200, Soph., Ron Suddith, T, 6-2/297, Jr., Kevin Wiggins, C, 6-2/264, Sr.
Defense (9): Hank Cooper, CB, 6-0/186, Sr., B.J. Crane, LB, 6-1/229, Jr., Morris Foreman, LB, 6-1/224, Sr., Daren



Southern Mississippi's Chris Buckhalter ran for 814 yards last season to lead the team in rushing.

Hart, SS, 5-10/192, Jr.; Dwight Henry, FS, 5-11/175, Jr., Mark Libiano, LB, 6-3/235, Sr., Emmanuel McDaniel, CB, 5-10/167, Sr.; Walter Scott, T, 6-3/270, Sr.; Lorenzo West, E, 6-3/243, Jr.
Kickers (2): Chad Holcomb, K, 6-2/160, Jr., Matt Levine, P, 5-9/195, Soph.

Other key returnees: Charles Boothe, OT, Sr., Marvin Burke, LB, Jr.; Lamont Burns, G, Jr.; Alphonso Collins, NG, Soph., David Crumblin, CB, Sr.; Linwood DeBrew, WR, Soph., David Hart, CB, Jr.; Jems McPhail, RB, Sr.; Scott Richards, TE, Jr., Daniel Russ, DE, Jr.; Larry Shannon, WR, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: McPhail (73 att., 326 yds., 2 TD); Passing: Crandell (401 att., 230 comp., 15 INT, 21 TD, 2,687 yds.); Receiving: Nichols (42 rec., 450 yds., 2 TD); Tackle: Libiano (135); Sack: West (3)

Top newcomers: Travis Darden, LB/DE, Fr., Scott Harley, RB, Fr. (RS); Daryl Jones, RB, Fr. (RS); Bernard Lackey, CB, Fr. (RS); Deone McKeithen, DB, Fr. (RS); Pedro Monteiro, DT, Soph. (JC); Mike Sellers, WR, Fr. (RS); Shap Sopanax, LB, Fr. (RS); Mike Sheehan, OT, Fr. (RS); Troy Smith, WR, Fr.

Site: Greenville, N.C. Stadium: Dowdy-Ficken Stadium (35,000)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Tennessee	Oct. 21 —Temple
Sept. 9 —at Syracuse	Oct. 28 —at Southern Miss
Sept. 16 —Central Michigan	Nov. 4 —at Army
Sept. 23 —at Illinois	Nov. 11 —Tulsa
Sept. 30 —West Virginia	Nov. 18 —Memphis
Oct. 7 —at Cincinnati	

4. SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Offensive strengths: For the first time in many moons, the Golden Eagles are well-stocked at the skill positions. Quarterback Heath Graham set a school record for completion percentage (58.2) and a freshman mark for yards (1,603) in only six starts. Quarterback recruit Chris Windsor, the junior-college player of the year in some circles last season, will give Southern Miss its first true double threat at the position since Reggie Collier in the early '80s. Tailbacks Chris Buckhalter and Harold Shaw are

Continued

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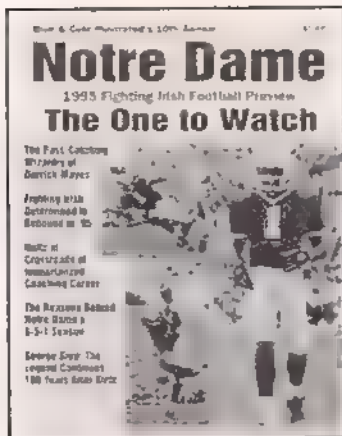
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interchangeable in any set. Six of the top seven receivers return.

Offensive weaknesses: The line. Only two full-time starters returned in the spring, and for the first two weeks of drills, it showed. The first unit looked better as spring ended, and junior-college help is on the way. The guys up front need to come through so offensive coordinator Norman Joseph's multi-faceted attack won't be grounded.

Defensive strengths: The Golden Eagles led the nation in takeaways (40) and finished second nationally with a school-record 25 interceptions. Defensive end Robert Brown is a blooming star. Outside linebackers Eugene Harmon and Albert McRae will start for the fourth consecutive year. Cornerback Rod Thomas and free safety L.T. Gulley lead an outstanding secondary.

Defensive weaknesses: Tackle Michael Tobias, who set up his linemates by attracting double- and triple-team blocking, is gone. But interior players Quentin Jackson, Kendall Dunn, Jason Hall and Jeff Hopgood had solid springs. Junior-college transfer Quantrellis Phillips could be the key.

Special teams: Gulley was among the top punt returners in the nation and Buckhalter would have ranked among the top kick returners with a few more returns. The kicking game will be in good hands, or feet, with punter Chris Pierce and Johnny Lomoro, the team's former No. 1 kicker who will try to regain the job after missing most of last season with a back injury.

Key to success: The offensive line must gel or it could be a long fall.

Outlook: The Golden Eagles finished last season on a roll, winning four of their last five. But the '95 schedule is a mixed blessing. Utah State replaces Auburn, but Southern Miss must play seven games on the road, including games against Alabama and Tennessee. If they can handle last year's success—something this program hasn't done well in the past—the Golden Eagles have the defense and offensive potential to soar.

Coach Jeff Bower says: "We do have a number of people coming back on both sides of the ball, but there are some areas—our front lines—that are critical. I think we have the talent to play at those places, but we just have to make sure we have those guys ready."

COACH JEFF BOWER DATA

Coach: Jeff Bower (19-25-1, 4 years)

1994 record: 6-5

Key losses: Brent Duggins, OT; Scott Harper, TE; Coby Jones, G; Ronald Jones, FB; Mark Montgomery, WR; Kenny Ray, C; Michael Tobias, DT

Starters returning: Offense (5): Jason Barlow, G, 6-3/240 Jr., Chris Buckhalter, TB/KR, 6-0/195, Sr.; Heath Graham, QB, 6-3/215, Soph.; Rod Otison, G, 6-2/270, Jr.; Ryan Pearson, WR, 6-2/185, Jr. **Defense (10):** Robert Brown, E, 6-2/245, Soph.; L.T. Gulley, FS/KR, 5-11/185, Sr.; Eugene Harmon, LB, 6-0/220, Sr.; Derrick Harvey, CB, 5-9/180, Sr.; Quentin Jackson, T, 6-4/240, Jr.; Albert McRae, LB, 6-1/220, Sr.; James Robinson, E, 6-3/240, Sr.; Roy Stabler, FS, 6-3/205, Jr.; Rod Thomas, CB, 6-2/175, Jr.; Cedric Waltham, LB, 6-1/225, Jr. **Kicker (1):** Chris Pierce, KP, 5-11/190, Sr.

Other key returnees: Eric Booth, RB, Soph.; Fred Brock, WR, Sr.; Kendall Dunn, OT, Soph.; Jason Hall, DT, Jr.; Adam Kennedy, WR, Sr.; Marchant Kenney, LB, Soph.; Kendenick Lee, WR, Jr.; Johnny Lomoro, K, Jr. (RS/back); Tim Meteva, DT, Jr.; Larry Norton, TE, Jr.; Melvin Ratzliff, SS, Sr.; Harold Shaw, TB, Soph.; Roy Stabler, SS, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Buckhalter (182 att., 814 yds., 3 TD); Passing: Graham (208 att., 121 comp., 15 INT, 7 TD, 1,803 yds.); Receiving: Pearson (37 rec., 436 yds., 3 TD); Tackler: Harmon (96); Sackler: Brown (8)

Top newcomers: Leroy DeWitt, OL, Jr. (JC); Jeff Hopgood,

DT, Fr. (RS); Quantrellis Phillips, DT, Jr. (JC); Fred Tate, LB, Jr. (JC); Darryl Terrell, OL, Jr. (JC); Chris Windsor, QB, Jr. (JC); Site: Hattiesburg, Miss. Stadium: Roberts Stadium (33,000)

NONRIVAL

Sept. 2 —Northern Illinois	Oct. 7 —Louisville
Sept. 9 —Alabama	Oct. 14 —at Cincinnati
(at Birmingham, Ala.)	Oct. 28 —East Carolina
Sept. 16 —at Utah State	Nov. 4 —at Tennessee
Sept. 23 —at Indiana	Nov. 11 —at Memphis
Sept. 30 —Tulane	Nov. 18 —at SW Louisiana

5. MEMPHIS

Offensive strengths: New Coach Rip Scherer's offensive philosophy—be aggressive and unpredictable—will help the Tigers. When the quarterback threw a pass to the tight end on the first play of the spring game, you would have thought Joe Montana had just found Dwight Clark in the back of the end zone judging from the crowd's reaction. Forgive them. These fans endured an offense that averaged 14.5 points last year.

Offensive weaknesses: The Tigers may need to find a quarterback who can run what Scherer wants. Joe Borich, a part-time starter last season, struggled in the spring trying to learn his third offense in three years (he was a junior-college recruit last year). Sophomore Chad Reed, the spring game MVP, and newcomers Qadry Anderson and Bernard Oden will duel for the job in fall practice.

Defensive strengths: Some veterans were worried that the new 4-3 scheme Scherer installed would hurt the blitzing ability of a defense that ranked third in the nation last season. Fear not. The scheme plays to the strengths of tackles Tony Williams and Brian Barnett. Linebackers Jesse Allen and Dan Bonner are big-play makers, as is end Rod Mason.

Defensive weaknesses: There's some concern in the backfield, where the Tigers lost starters Ken Irvin and Barry Dillard, who combined for five interceptions and 122 tackles last year. Some defensive backs have to be found in a hurry.

Special teams: Veteran kicking coach Murray Armstrong always churns out strong kickers and punters. Walk-on Luis Tejeda earned a scholarship for his performance last season. Punter Drew Paimore figures to improve his 38.7 average, but he is good at dropping kicks inside the 20-yard line. Ryan Roskelly set five school punt-return records last season.

Keys to success: Scherer, who was hired away from Division I-AA James Madison, must find a quarterback. His system calls for a mixture of option and pass-action. Depth is a question on both lines.

Outlook: The Tigers have a brutal schedule that sends them on the road five times in their first seven games. If their confidence remains unshaken after trips to Mississippi State and Michigan, the Tigers have the capability of rallying down the stretch. As much as anything, Scherer's offense must be entertaining. Fans who stayed away under the conservative reign of previous coach Chuck Stobart need to be lured back.

Coach Rip Scherer says: "I think you've got to be aggressive and I want our players to feel that from us. That gives them confidence. We want to play as aggressive offensively as we did defensively. The players want to win so bad, and that gives us something to build on."

TIGER DATA

Coach: Rip Scherer (1st year: 29-19 overall, 4 years)

1994 record: 6-5

Key losses: Al Dawkins, FB; Barry Dillard, SS; Ken Irvin, CB; James Logan, DE; John Ludwiczak, C; Robbie Quinn, OT; Duane Vandborg, LB

Starters returning: Offense (7): Joe Borich, QB, 6-0/208, Sr.; Daniel Gomez, G, 6-5/273, Soph.; Ernest Keefer, WR, 5-11/173, Jr.; Josh Miller, G, 6-1/274, Jr.; Joe Paschke, TE, 6-5/239, Sr.; Ryan Roskelly, FL/KR, 5-10/170, Sr.; Keith Setler, T, 6-1/311, Sr. **Defense (7):** Jesse Allen, LB, 6-2/220, Jr.; Brian Barnett, T, 6-0/270, Sr.; Dan Bonner, LB, 6-0/208, Sr.; Rod Mason, E, 6-2/250, Sr.; Chris Smith, CB, 5-10/164, Sr.; Tony Williams, T, 6-2/242, Jr.; Jerome Woods, SS, 6-4/190, Sr. **Kickers (2):** Drew Paimore, P, 6-0/197, Soph.; Luis Tejeda, K, 5-9/200, Soph.

Other key returnees: Chancey Carr, WR, Soph.; Frank Fletcher, TB, Sr.; Richard Hogans, LB, Jr.; Derrick Jones, TB, Soph.; Chad Reed, QB, Soph.; Keith Spann, DB, Soph.; Marvin Thomas, DE, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Fletcher (91 att., 412 yds., 1 TD); Passing: Borich (123 att., 43 comp., 2 INT, 3 TD 473 yds.); Receiving: Roskelly (44 rec., 602 yds., 3 TD); Tackler: Allen (128); Sackler: Barnett (8).

Top newcomers: Qadry Anderson, QB, Jr. (JC); Keith Cobb, DB, Soph. (Prop 48); Joe Darlington, G, Fr. (RS); Marcus Gary, LB, Jr. (JC); Bernard Oden, QB, Soph. (Prop 48); Shaun Sands, RB, Fr. (RS); Duron Sutton, DB, Jr. (JC)

Site: Memphis, Tenn. Stadium: Liberty Bowl (62,380)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Mississippi State	Oct. 21 —at Cincinnati
Sept. 9 —at Michigan	Oct. 28 —Tulsa
Sept. 16 —SW Louisiana	Nov. 4 —Mississippi
Sept. 23 —at Arkansas	Nov. 11 —Southern Miss
Sept. 30 —Louisville	Nov. 18 —at East Carolina
Oct. 14 —at Tulane	

8. TULSA

Offensive strengths: The Golden Hurricane is loaded with talented skill people. Tailback Solomon White rushed for 1,003 yards and caught 31 passes last season, and receiver Wes Caswell caught 74. His running mate, Michael Kedzior, grabbed 37 balls and scored six times, while former tailback Kenny Gunn brings more speed and versatility to the receiving corps. A solid line is fortified by David Millwee, one of the best centers in the country.

Offensive weaknesses: Quarterback John Fitzgerald threw 14 interceptions and only five touchdown passes in relief of Troy DeGar, who went down in the first game with a knee injury. DeGar is healthy, but Tad Jones (collarbone) is not. If everyone is sound, quarterbacking could be a strength.



David Millwee, one of the best centers in the nation, is the bulwark of Tulsa's line.

Defensive strengths: End Sedric Clark, who had eight sacks last year, is the sole returnee up front. Muadianvita Kazadi, John Peters and Jody Sparks form the nucleus of a capable linebacking corps. Cornerback Malcolm Williams is a solid man-to-man coverage guy.

Defensive weaknesses: The Hurricane gave up 27.6 points and 199.4 rushing yards per game last year. Tulsa is somewhat undersized and inexperienced up front and needs to settle on a secondary rotation.

Special teams: Jason Jacoby, who returned a kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown against UNLV, and Gunn form an excellent return tandem. Unfortunately, Tulsa's opponents were equally effective at returning punts and kickoffs last year. Thanks to punter Mark DeLozier (42.1 average) and kicker James Anderson (13 of 20 field-goal attempts), the kicking game seems set.

Outlook: The Golden Hurricane's success in its final year of independence will depend on the health of its quarterback and the development of a strong defensive front. The schedule is manageable. Tulsa fans should expect a lot of shootouts, with scores in the 30s or 40s.

Coach Dave Rader says: "If we stay healthy, we'll be OK. I like the makeup of our team, and I like its demeanor. I think we have some playmakers, even more so than last year."

GOLDEN HURRICANE DATA

Coach: Dave Rader (34-44-1, 7 years)

1994 record: 3-8

Key losses: Pat Denofrio, CB; Floyd Goode, LB, Mike Haenszel SS; Justin Hennecke, OT; Cory Lax, DT; Jason Percy, FB; Jason Sanders, G; Lance Sloan, DT

Starters returning: Offense (7): Chris Anderson, TE, 6-4/255, Sr. Wes Caswell SE 5-9/165, Jr. Michael Kedzior FL 6-3/185, Sr. David Milwee, C, 6-3/275, Sr. Brian Newman, G, 6-4/282, Jr.; Doug Pisula, T, 6-3/290, Jr. Solomon White, TB, 5-8/180, Jr. **Defense (7):** Salifu Abdulhah, LB (moved from E), 6-2/220, Jr. Jeremy Bunch, FS, 6-0/201, Jr.; Sedric Clark, E, 6-2/248, Sr. Terrance Joseph, FS, 6-3/201, Soph., Muadianvita Kazadi, LB, 6-2/225, Jr.; John Peters, LB, 6-0/218, Sr. Malcolm Williams, CB, 5-10/175, Sr. **Kickers (2):** James Anderson, K, 6-0/175, Soph., Mark DeLozier P, 6-1/208, Sr.

Other key returnees: Coco Buller, DT, Sr.; Troy DeGar, QB, Jr. (RS/knee); John Fitzgerald, QB, Soph., Kenny Gunn, TB/SE/KR, Sr. Mark Haberfeld, DT, Sr. (RS/knee); Jason Jacoby, DB/KR, Soph.; Tad Jones, QB, Jr.; Mark Lippe, TE, Soph.; Michael Ruhl, OT, Soph.; Jody Sparks, LB, Soph.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: White (230 att., 1,003 yds., 8 TD); Passing: Fitzgerald (255 att., 136 comp., 14 INT, 5 TD, 1,409 yds.); Receiving: Caswell (74 rec., 893 yds., 3 TD); Tackler: Kazadi (94); Sackler: Clark (8)

Top newcomers: Tony Fisher, DE, Fr. (RS); Marshall Gordon, SE, Fr. (RS); Tim Martin, DT, Fr. (RS); Reggie Williams, TB, Fr. (RS)

Site: Tulsa, Okla. **Stadium:** Skelly Stadium (40,385)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Baylor	Oct. 7 —Wyoming
Sept. 9 —Oklahoma State	Oct. 14 —at UTEP
Sept. 16 —at Texas A&M	Oct. 28 —at Memphis
Sept. 23 —East Tennessee St.	Nov. 4 —at BYU
Sept. 30 —Louisiana Tech	Nov. 11 —at E. Carolina
(at Shreveport, La.)	Nov. 18 —Cincinnati

7. CINCINNATI

Offensive strengths: The top four wide receivers—Anthony Ladd, Robert Tate, Sean Stewart and James Scott—are back. They are among the best athletes on the team. All four have the speed to break a long one. Eric Vibberts returns at quarterback. He isn't particularly flashy, but he was very efficient near the end of last season.

Offensive weaknesses: The running game never got going last year because the line got manhandled. The Bearcats

addressed that need by recruiting four linemen who'll be counted on to supply depth and challenge for starting positions. None of Cincinnati's running backs is overpowering.

Defensive strengths: All four starters in the secondary return, including team-leading tackler Sam Garnes. Jermaine Trent, a junior-college transfer, may allow Chris Hewitt, the team's biggest hitter, to move from corner to free safety. Phillip Curry, who started as a freshman last year, could be Cincinnati's best linebacker in years.

Defensive weaknesses: There's not much size on the line. None of the returnees is a proven run-stuffer, and to compensate the Bearcats have changed from a 4-3 to a 3-4.

Special teams: Kicker Tom Dallen and punter Jeff Blaylock are gone. Eric Richards, a redshirt sophomore, will take over the kicking duties. Steve Smith, who averaged 43.7 yards a kick at Mississippi Gulf Coast College, was brought in to punt. Tate is dangerous on both punt and kickoff returns.

Keys to success: The Bearcats must establish a running game and stop their opponents'. Craedel Kimbrough, last year's leading rusher, has to step up.

Outlook: The early part of the schedule (Kansas, Kansas State, Virginia Tech) will make a good start nearly impossible. The rest of schedule is a lot more reasonable, so if their recruiting class plans out, the Bearcats could improve on last year's 2-8-1 record.

Coach Rick Minter says: "There's a different attitude this year. This is a more confident, high-spirited group."

BEARCATS DATA

Coach: Rick Minter (2-8-1, 1 year)

1994 record: 2-8-1

Key losses: Ernest Allen, DT, Paul Blackwood, FB, Jeff Blaylock, P, Tom Dallen, K, Reggie Hudson, LB, Rick Simons, OT, Matt Vaupel, G

Starters returning: Offense (8): Jason Fabini, T, 6-6/260, Soph.; Craedel Kimbrough, TB, 5-11/181, Sr.; Anthony Ladd, WR, 6-2/190, Jr. Jarne Lemire, C (moved from G), 6-3/290, Sr. Pat Oakes, G (moved from C), 6-4/275, Jr. Jesse Olverson, TE, 6-3/250, Jr.; Sean Stewart, WR, 6-0/185, Sr.; Eric Vibberts, QB, 6-2/190, Sr. **Defense (9):** Dorian Adams, E, 6-3/243, Sr.; Phillip Curry, LB, 6-1/205, Soph.; Muhammed El-Mubarak, LB, 6-2/231, Sr.; Darius Feider, E, 6-4/240, Jr.; Sam Games, SS, 6-3/205, Jr.; Darrell Harding, CB, 6-1/185, Sr.; Chris Hewitt, CB, 6-0/195, Jr.; Kevin Jackson, FS, 6-2/170, Jr.; Derrick Ransom, T, 6-4/235, Soph. **Kickers:** None

Other key returnees: Ken Fowler, LB, Sr., Terry Grooms, DE, Jr.; John Kobalka, DE, Soph.; Eric Patterson, FB (moved from LB), Sr.; Todd Preston, QB, Sr.; Eric Richards, K, Soph.; James Scott, WR, Jr.; Robert Tate, WR, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Kimbrough (132 att., 565 yds., 0 TD); Passing: Vibberts (182 att., 114 comp., 8 INT, 6 TD, 1,335 yds.); Receiving: Ladd (35 rec., 446 yds., 3 TD); Tackler: Games (134); Sackler: Grooms (3)

Top newcomers: Pierre Brillion, DT, Fr. (RS); Latrez Mills, DL, Soph. (JC); Brandon Rader, TE, Jr. (JC); Deron Savage, DT, Fr.; Steve Smith, P, Jr. (JC); Jermaine Trent, DB, Jr. (JC); Delmar Turner, LB, Jr. (JC); Essau Vramontes, OL, Jr. (JC); Fred Ward, DL, Jr. (JC)

Site: Cincinnati **Stadium:** Nippert Stadium (36,000)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Kansas	Oct. 14 —S. Mississippi
Sept. 9 —Kansas State	Oct. 21 —Memphis
Sept. 16 —at Virginia Tech	Oct. 28 —at N. Illinois
Sept. 23 —at Miami of Ohio	Nov. 11 —at Kentucky
Sept. 30 —Toledo	Nov. 18 —at Tulsa
Oct. 7 —East Carolina	

8. NORTHEAST LOUISIANA

Offensive strengths: The Indians' skill people are talented, but there aren't many of them. Wide receiver Stepfret Williams had four scoring catches of 50-plus yards last

BURNING QUESTION

Will Notre Dame be only independent by '98?

Mike Tranghese, commissioner of the Big East Conference, has to be a pretty happy man these days. By wooing Notre Dame into the league for everything but football, he might just grab the biggest prize in college athletics: Fighting Irish football.

It may take a little while, and it isn't a cinch, but given the recent frenzy of independents joining and creating conferences, the Irish could be all alone in the formerly crowded world of gridiron individualists within a few years. At that point, they may just have to find a home.

By this time next year, there will be no more than seven teams without conference affiliation. Tulsa is headed to the WAC. North Texas is joining the Big West, and Louisville, Cincinnati, Memphis, Southern Miss and Tulane will join Houston in the football edition of the newly minted Conference USA.

And there could be more. The Mid-American Conference will decide this summer whether to extend invitations to Army and Navy for all-sport or football-only membership. Central Florida, which moves to I-A in 1996, should be snapped up quickly, thanks to its attractive Orlando home. Alabama-Birmingham, which also moves to I-A next year, eventually will become a member of Conference USA since it already is participating in every other sport.

That would leave East Carolina and Northeast Louisiana as the only orphans besides Notre Dame. The Pirates have been turned down twice by the Big East because their Greenville, N.C., home doesn't provide the demographic pop the Big East desires. East Carolina also was frozen out of Conference USA thanks, in part, to the protestations of former Louisville coach Howard Schnellenberger, who didn't want to play more than five league games. But don't be surprised if East Carolina joins the league with Alabama-Birmingham, just for balance.

Northeast Louisiana might not be so lucky because in-state rivals Louisiana Tech and Southwestern Louisiana may not want a third team from Cajun country in the Big West. But the Indians aren't giving up and hope to find safe haven in the Big West or convince the Eastern members of that conference to break off and join it in an all-sports confederation that makes more geographic sense.

If all that happens before the turn of the century, Notre Dame may have no choice but to ask for Big East membership in football. Nothing is guaranteed, but you can bet Tranghese is smiling. And cheering every time another independent finds a home.

—MICHAEL BRADLEY

Continued

year and joins with improving quarterback Raymond Philyaw to form a potent passing combination. Three backs—Eric Foster, Pete Miles and Carson Fields—rushed for 100 yards in a game last season.

Offensive weaknesses: Holdover guards Orlando Bobo and Shawn Jenkins join a cast of newcomers, youngsters and unproven reserves on a shaky offensive front.

Defensive strengths: Not many; the Indians allowed 450.6 yards and 34.9 points per game last year. Chad Nerenberg is the best of a linebacking corps that was crippled by injury last year, while free safety Alonzo Hampton and cornerback Terrace Dunbar return to start in the secondary.

Defensive weaknesses: The departure of relentless end Shawn King makes a weak line even more susceptible, while the secondary will be filled with select newcomers and a group of guys rehabbing injuries.

Special teams: Mike Yocca, who attempted (and missed) one field-goal attempt last year, inherits the starting job after the loss of Roger Miller. Backup fullback Jason Pope (one punt for 36 yards two years ago) takes over the punting chores. A replacement is needed for departed return specialist Kevin Washington.

Key to success: The Indians must develop cohesion along both lines immediately.

Outlook: Northeast's second year in Division I-A shouldn't be much better than its first. The Indians visit big-time killers like Colorado, Auburn and Mississippi State, and they can attract only I-AA schools to Monroe, La. Coach Ed Zaunbrecher somehow kept the team's spirits high last year and must continue to sell the future to his young players. Williams again will thrill fans with his long-distance receiving antics, and Philyaw has the potential to be a special quarterback. But the Indians are well below their I-A brethren in overall talent and depth.

Coach Ed Zaunbrecher says: "We're going to be in a transition phase for three more years. That comes with trying to convert a program to where you build through young players. We're going to have the young guys play a lot for us, and eventually it will pay off."

INDIANS DATA

Coach: Ed Zaunbrecher (3-8, 1 year)
1994 record: 3-8

Key losses: Rod Adams, DE, John Barbee, C; Conrad Clarke, FS; Ernest Dason, CB; Shawn King, DE; Brian Lambert, P; Roger Miller, K; Alvin Paschal, G; Damon Poage, LB; Chris Stortz, G; Lorenzo Wallace, OT; Kevin Washington, WR; Michael Watkins, WR

Starters returning: **Offense (6):** Orlando Bobo, G, 6-4/300, Sr.; Eric Foster, FB, 6-0/228, Sr.; Shawn Jenkins, G, 6-2/274, Soph.; Raymond Philyaw, QB, 6-0/185, Jr.; Charles Randolph, TE, 6-2/265, Sr.; Stephen Williams, SE, 6-2/170, Sr. **Defense (5):** Terrace Dunbar, CB, 5-9/175, Sr.; Alonzo Hampton, FS, 5-10/155, Jr.; Chris Holyfield, E/LB, 6-0/210, Soph.; Chad Nerenberg, LB, 5-11/235, Jr.; Robert Smith, T, 6-4/280, Sr. **Kickers:** None

Other key returnees: James Boyett, TE, Sr.; Carson Fields, RB, Soph.; Damien Foster, DE, Soph. (RS/academics); Shawn Lang, DE/LB, Jr. (RS/academics); Bo Miles, LB, Jr. (RS); Pete Miles, RB, Sr.; Jason Pope, P/FB, Jr.; Shane Price, DT, Soph.; Mike Yocca, K, Sr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Eric Foster (107 att., 447 yds., 9 TD); Passing: Philyaw (243 att., 131 comp., 7 INT, 13 TD, 1,893 yds.); Receiving: Williams (57 rec., 1,106 yds., 10 TD); Tackler: Nerenberg (73); Sackler: Price (2).

Top newcomers: Julius Aice, WR, Soph. (Prop 48); Steve Foley, TE, Soph. (Prop 48); Michael Harvey, OT, Soph. (JC); Corey Sampson, DB, Jr. (JC); Michael Young, DB, Jr. (JC)

Sites: Monroe, La. **Stadium:** Malone Stadium (30,427).

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Fresno State	Oct. 14 —at Nevada
Sept. 9 —Nicholls State	Oct. 21 —Northwestern St.
Sept. 16 —at Colorado	Oct. 28 —Central Florida
Sept. 23 —at Missouri	Nov. 4 —at Auburn
Sept. 30 —at Mississippi State	Nov. 11 —at Louisville
Oct. 7 —Troy State	

TULANE

Offensive strengths: None, except for junior wide receiver Derrick Franklin, who caught 45 of the 172 passes Tulane completed last season. But he got a lot of double coverage late in the season when it became apparent he was the Green Wave's only weapon. The same thing will happen this season.

Offensive weaknesses: Where to start? How about the quarterback position, which accounted for 36 of Tulane's 43 turnovers last season. The offense hinges on the development of redshirt freshman Matt Cammuso or true freshman Shaun King, but neither has played in a college game. Both were all-state performers in high school in Florida.

Defensive strengths: Although small, the line showed improvement during the spring, specifically end Jeff Dean. The linebacking appears to be the strongest position on the team.

Defensive weaknesses: Although it's not as bad as the offense, the defense is undermanned. It's not very big, very quick or very fast. The secondary constantly was burned last season. Mississippi State, which prefers the run, threw for 466 yards against the Green Wave last season. The defense spends too much time on the field because of the inept offense.

Special teams: Redshirt freshman Brad Palazzo is expected to be the kicker, while tight end Danny Lasseigne will do double-duty as the punter. The Green Wave was 13th in the nation in kickoff returns and wide receiver Jeff Liggon is the main man. Liggon set an NCAA record with 1,038 yards on a record-tying 44 returns; expect him to get a lot of opportunities this season, too. Franklin is the punt returner.

Keys to success: Tulane needs a huge infusion of talent before its September 2 opener against Maryland. But that's not likely. The offense has to score more (it averaged 12.3 points last year) and turn the ball over less.

Outlook: Even with an easy schedule, Tulane's prospects don't look good. A 2-9 or 1-10 season is a safe bet, and the school's 14th successive non-winning season appears imminent. Tulane doesn't possess the talent needed to compete in Division I-A.

Coach Buddy Teevens: "We need some of those young kids coming in to help us. And we have to eliminate hurting ourselves."

GREEN WAVE DATA

Coach: Buddy Teevens (6-28, 3 years, 45-59-2 overall, 10 years)
1994 record: 1-10

Key losses: Bart Baldwin, K; Michael Smart, LB; Mike Staid, FS; Kevin Tingley, FB; Keno Turner, WR; Marcos Yela, DE

Starters returning: **Offense (9):** Cyril Brodome, T, 6-7/294, Jr.; Will Carls, G, 6-5/284, Jr.; Derrick Franklin, WR, 6-0/174, Jr.; Cory Geason, T, 6-3/260, Soph.; Danny Lasseigne, TE/P, 6-2/238, Sr.; Russ Messner, C, 6-5/273, Jr.; Danny Metzger, G, 6-4/264, Jr.; Jerald Sowell, RB, 6-1/230, Jr.; Tracy Watts, QB, 6-4/234, Sr. **Defense (9):** Cedric Anderson, CB, 6-0/189, Sr.; Keith Cook, T, 6-4/242, Jr.; Jeff Dean, E, 6-2/236, Sr.; Elijah Freeman, FS (moved from CB), 6-0/178, Jr.; Daryl Jackson, LB, 6-1/230, Soph.; Dwight Jones, DE (moved from LB), 6-1/230, Soph.; Joel Locker, T, 6-2/239, Jr.; Jimmie Parker, SS, 6-0/200, Sr.; Brian Williams, LB, 6-0/232, Soph.

Other key returnees: Monte Burke, LB, Jr.; Ryan Deaton, DE.

Sr.; Chris Dodd, G, Jr.; Andre Gomes, CB, Jr.; Brad Hight, LB, Sr.; Tim Hornbrook, DE, Jr.; Todd Hunter, OT, Jr.; Shawn Jones, DT, Sr.; Jeff Luggon, WR/KR, Jr.; Adam Moorhead, RB, Soph.; Joey Perry, RB, Sr.; Thaddeus Prosper, DT, Jr. (returning from suspension); Steve Schuler, OT, Sr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Sowell (156 att., 609 yds., 3 TD); Passing: Watts (204 att., 91 comp., 12 INT, 4 TD, 916 yds.); Receiving: Franklin (45 rec., 450 yds., 2 TD); Tackler: Cook (72); Sackler: Deaton (4.5)

Top newcomers: Matt Cammuso, QB, Fr. (RS); Johnny Curtis, LB, Sr. (RS/transfer-Mississippi State); Shaun King, QB, Fr.; Brad Palazzo, K, Fr. (RS); Stanford White, RB, Fr. (RS); O'Kie Woods, RB, Fr.

Sites: New Orleans **Stadium:** Superdome (69,065)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —Maryland	Oct. 21 —at Texas Christian
Sept. 9 —Wake Forest	Oct. 28 —at SW Louisiana
Sept. 16 —at Rice	Nov. 4 —at Louisville
Sept. 23 —at S. Mississippi	Nov. 11 —at Rutgers
Oct. 7 —at Mississippi	Nov. 18 —at Navy
Oct. 14 —Memphis	

ARMY

Offensive strengths: If Akili King can stay healthy, he can be one of the nation's best fullbacks. He is joined in the backfield by talented halfbacks Steve Carpenter and Jeff Brizio. Guard Joel Davis anchors an experienced line, while tight end Ron Leshinski has started 22 consecutive games. Ron Thomas and Leon Gantt are a strong wide receiver tandem.

Offensive weaknesses: What is it with Army quarterbacks and knee injuries? When he hurt his ACL during spring drills, Ronnie McAda became the fourth Cadets signal-caller to go down with a knee injury since 1991. McAda is expected to be fine by fall, but another injury would leave the untested Charles Kean as Army's option triggerman.

Defensive strengths: The Cadets' front three features veterans Adrian Calame and Al Roberts (moved from linebacker), while Colin Kearns looked good last year at nose-guard. The secondary, led by free safety Jim Cantelupe, is deep and talented.

Defensive weaknesses: The graduation of inside stalwart Pat Work and Roberts' move to the line has weakened the linebacking. Ben Kotwica is the only returning starter at the position.

Special teams: Chris McQuillan, who showed promise as a kickoff man in '94, replaces Kurt Heiss as the kicker. The punting job is wide open, with Kevin Frosch and Scot Lord the top candidates. The Army kick-return game needs improvement.

Outlook: Three I-AA opponents (Lehigh, Colgate, Bucknell) are welcome oases on a schedule that includes Duke, Washington, Notre Dame and Boston College before Halloween. If Coach Bob Sutton can get his quarterback situation settled, the Cadets should score some points, but he'll need to develop the linebackers quickly.

Coach Bob Sutton says: "The thing you have to do here is win the close ones. We had four games last year that we lost by a combined 15 points. We have to find a way to win those games. We don't think we're quite as far away from success as it might appear."

CADETS DATA

Coach: Bob Sutton (19-25, 4 years)

1994 record: 4-7

Key losses: James Chun, CB; Josh Freeman, C; Kurt Heiss, K; Mark Houston, P; Dondra Jolly, SE; Jon Kerr, DT; Gavin Lawrence, OT; Eric Oliver, LB; Joe Ross, FB; Kevin Vaughn, RB; Pat Work, LB

Starters returning: **Offense (5):** Bill Blair, T, 6-3/272, Sr.; Joel Davis, G, 6-4/290, Sr.; Ron Leshinski, TE, 6-3/245, Jr.; Ronnie McAda, QB, 6-4/198, Jr.; Ed Stover, G, 6-4/275, Sr. **Defense (7):** Adrian Calame, T, 6-1/260, Sr.; Jim Cantelupe,

FS, 6-0/195. Sr., Garland Gay DB, 5-10/190, Jr.; Colin Kaams, NG, 6-1/260, Jr.; Ben Kotwica, LB, 6-0/205, Jr.; Abdullah Muhammad, DB, 5-11/185, Sr.; Ray Tomasz, SS, 6-2/198, Sr. Kickers: None.

Other key returnees: Jeff Brizic, RB, Jr., Steve Carpenter, RB, Sr., Bill Douth, LB, Sr.; Kevin Frosch, P, Jr.; Leon Garit, SE, Sr. (RS); Chris Gedwed, LB, Jr.; Charles Kean, QB, Jr.; Akili King, FB, Sr.; Scot Lord, P, Soph.; Chris McQuillan, K, Soph.; Al Roberts, DT (moved from LB), Sr.; Ron Thomas, SE, Jr.; Brian Tucker, LB, Sr. (injured during spring).

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: McAda (105 att., 543 yds., 2 TD); Passing: McAda (99 att., 51 comp., 4 INT, 3 TD, 618 yds.); Receiving: Thomas (23 rec., 241 yds., 0 TD); Tackler: Cantelupo (99); Sackler: Calame, Roberts (2).

Top newcomers: None.

Site: West Point, N.Y. **Stadium:** Michie Stadium (39,929)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 9 —Lehigh	Oct. 28 —Colgate
Sept. 16 —Duke	Nov. 4 —East Carolina
Sept. 23 —at Washington	Nov. 11 —at Air Force
Sept. 30 —Rice	Nov. 18 —Bucknell
Oct. 14 —Notre Dame	Dec. 2 —Navy
(at East Rutherford, N.J.)	(at Philadelphia)
Oct. 21 —at Boston College	

11. NORTH TEXAS

Offensive strengths: Running back Hut Allred gave the Eagles a much-needed shot in the arm last year. Sophomore Bo Harrison also figures big in North Texas' plans. Wide receiver Troy Redwine was an All-Southland Conference selection last year.

Offensive weaknesses: The loss of all-time leading passer Mitch Maher hurts a lot. Sophomore Jason Mills, the son of linebackers coach Chuck Mills, is the most experienced quarterback. But he played in only two games last year.

Defensive strengths: Willis Hudson, an All-SLC selection at end, returns along with senior tackle Shane McLaughlin, who missed all of last season with a knee injury. Three linebackers—Benny Cherry, who holds down the middle, and outside men Justin Ray and Brett Renfro—should help until the line stabilizes. Cornerback Gerald Farley and safety Lorenza Washington are solid.

Defensive weaknesses: The Eagles have to replace two starters in the secondary and almost their entire line with largely untested players. They're high on lineman Scott Murphy, a transfer from Fresno City College. **Special teams:** The Eagles are in good shape. Kicker Jeff Graham is the team's leading returning scorer and punter Toby Gowin is solid. The kickoff and punt returning should be decent, but nothing spectacular.

Keys to success: Maturity, and luck. North Texas is moving up from Division I-AA and has an ambitious schedule.

Outlook: The Eagles aren't likely to soar very high. Their recruiting class was relatively small physically, and they didn't sign any Top 100 recruits in the state. But nobody expects Coach Matt Simon to take the team to a bowl game this year, anyway. The key is to be as good as possible now while readying for the move to the Big West Conference in 1996.

Coach Matt Simon says: "We're just going to try to do the things we did last year a little better."

EAGLES DATA

Coach: Matt Simon (7-4-1, 1 year).

1994 record: 7-4-1 (lost in 1st round of I-AA playoffs to Boise State) **Southland:** 5-0-1/1st.

Key losses: Anthony Bridges, S, David Brown, WR; Greg Hirsch, OL; John Luker, DL; Mitch Maher, QB; Dmitri Markham, CB; Greg Price, G; Luis Silva, TE; Brad Smith, OL; Stan Thomas, DL.

Starters returning: **Offense (4):** Jeff Bowles, L, 6-3/277,

Soph., Troy Redwine, WR, 6-0/190, Sr., Brian Smith, WR, 5-11/165, Sr.; Robert Waddle, L, 6-3/270, Soph. **Defense (6):** Benny Cherry, LB, 6-1/209, Jr.; Gerald Farley, CB, 5-9/180, Sr.; Willis Hudson, E, 6-1/259, Sr.; Justin Ray, LB, 6-1/233, Jr.; Brett Renfro, LB, 6-0/217, Soph.; Lorenza Washington, S, 6-2/192, Sr. **Kickers (2):** Toby Gowin, P, 5-10/150, Jr.; Jeff Graham, K, 6-3/224, Jr.

Other key returnees: Hut Allred, RB, Soph., Tony Castillo, C/G, Jr.; Rodney Hall, TE, Sr.; Bo Harrison, RB, Soph.; Clay Jennings, DL, Sr.; Verto McKinney, WR, Sr.; Shane McLaughlin, DT, Sr. (RS/line); Jason Mills, QB, Soph.; Kelon Wilson, DB, Sr.; Avery Wright, DB, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Allred (59 att., 255 yds., 1 TD); Passing: Mills (25 att., 14 comp., 3 INT, 1 TD, 115 yds.); Receiving: Redwine (49 rec., 811 yds., 7 TD); Tackler: Hudson (81); Sackler: Hudson (14.5).

Top newcomers: Aaron Grinstead, DL, Jr. (JC); Scott Murphy, DL, Jr. (JC); Damon West, OB, Fr. (RS).

Site: Denton, Texas. **Stadium:** Fouts Field (30,500)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2 —at Missouri	Oct. 14 —Ala.-Birmingham
Sept. 9 —Kansas	Oct. 21 —at Louisiana St.
(at Irving, Texas)	Oct. 28 —at Alabama
Sept. 16 —Oregon State	Nov. 4 —at UNLV
Sept. 23 —at Oklahoma	Nov. 11 —Idaho State
Oct. 7 —at Nevada	Nov. 18 —at Louisville

12. NAVY

Offensive strengths: New Coach Charlie Weatherbie, who comes from Utah State, thinks the spread option offense that coordinator Paul Johnson brought with him from Hawaii should boost an anemic offense that produced just 55.7 rushing yards and 17.1 points per game. Guard Alex Domino leads a line that returns four starters, while backs Omar Nelson and Patrick McGrew were impressive in spring drills.

Offensive weaknesses: Weatherbie isn't sure who will trigger the new offense. Ben Fay, Eddie Buckles and Chris McCoy are candidates, but only Fay has taken a varsity snap. And though there's experience on the line, the Middies allowed 36 sacks last year.

Defensive strengths: Weatherbie likes his defensive front, which includes All-East candidate Andy Person (four sacks in '94) at end. Fernando Harris recovered three fumbles last year from his outside linebacker spot, and cornerback Joe Speed and strong safety Andy Thompson are reliable holdovers in the secondary.

Defensive weaknesses: The Middies allowed 36.3 points and 408.6 yards per game last year even with guys like Person, Harris, Speed and Thompson around. Navy lacks size up front (no returning defender weighs more than 255 pounds) and isn't blessed with much speed, either.

Special teams: Both punter Brian Schrum (40.1-yard average) and kicker Ryan Bucchianeri (4 of 8 on field-goal attempts) are back, but Navy needs to find new return men and find a way to prevent a repeat of '94, when three punts were blocked.

Keys to success: Weatherbie must find the right triggerman for his demanding offense, solidify the shaky offensive line and find a way to prevent teams from overpowering the light Midshipmen along the defensive front.

Outlook: Weatherbie says the players need a serious attitude adjustment before Navy can win again. He is right. But Navy also must upgrade its overall speed, find stronger linemen and realize that service academy discipline and sense of purpose aren't enough to win on the I-A level.

Coach Charlie Weatherbie says: "To me, Navy has a great sense of tradition that can



Outside linebacker Fernando Harris is a key player for Navy's outmanned defense.

be brought back. The school won a national championship in 1925 (actually 1926) and has had two Heisman winners. Navy hasn't been real good the last 12 years, but I see this as an opportunity to gain back some of the tradition and respect."

MIDSHIPMAN DATA

Coach: Charlie Weatherbie (1st year, 15-19 overall, 3 years) **1994 record:** 3-8

Key losses: Damon Dixon, WR, Shane Halloran, LB, Chris Hart, CB, Kevin Hickman, TE, Jim Kubiak, QB, Tom Neville, DT, Travis Salley, DE, Dean Wakeham, OT.

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Alex Domino, G, 6-4/294, Sr., Erasto Jackson, T, 6-2/250, Jr., Bryce Minamiyer, G, 6-2/264, Sr.; Omar Nelson, RB, 5-9/223, Jr.; Matt Soomavacchi, WR, 5-10/185, Sr.; Garret Smith, C, 6-3/260, Sr.; Monty Williams, RB, 5-10/225, Sr. **Defense (7):** Genny Ajota, FS, 5-11/185, Soph.; Clint Bruce, LB, 6-0/233, Jr.; Mark Hammond, T, 6-3/243, Sr.; Fernando Harris, LB, 6-1/215, Sr.; Andy Person, E, 6-4/241, Sr.; Joe Speed, CB, 6-1/190, Sr.; Andy Thompson, SS, 6-0/210, Sr. **Kickers (2):** Ryan Bucchianeri, K, 5-8/152, Jr.; Brian Schrum, P, 6-2/185, Sr.

Other key returnees: Eddie Buckles, QB, Sr.; Travis Cooley, LB, Soph.; Colin Echols, DE, Jr.; Ben Fay, QB, Jr.; Brian Grana, TE, Sr.; Robert Green, CB, Jr.; Chad Holzapfel, DE, Jr.; Chris McCoy, QB, Soph.; Patrick McGrew, RB, Soph.; Cal Quinn, DE, Jr.; Ross Scott, WR, Jr.

Returning statistical leaders: Rushing: Williams (74 att., 215 yds., 7 TD); Passing: Fay (11 att., 5 comp., 0 INT, 0 TD, 45 yds.); Receiving: Soomavacchi (22 rec., 440 yds., 3 TD); Tackler: Thompson (112); Sackler: Hammond (5).

Top newcomers: Sean Andrews, CB, Soph.; John Ganey, G, Soph. **Site:** Annapolis, Md. **Stadium:** Navy-Marine Corps Stadium (30,000)

SCHEDULE

Sept. 9 —at SMU	Oct. 21 —Villanova
Sept. 16 —at Rutgers	Nov. 4 —at Notre Dame
Sept. 23 —Wake Forest	Nov. 11 —Delaware
Sept. 30 —at Duke	Nov. 18 —Tulane
Oct. 7 —Virginia Tech	Dec. 2 —Army
Oct. 14 —Air Force	(at Philadelphia)

Writers contributing to this preview were Michael Bradley, free-lance writer (Army, Navy, Northeast Louisiana, Notre Dame and Tulsa); Rick Bozich, Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal (Louisville); Tim Doherty, Hattiesburg (Miss.) American (Southern Mississippi); John Fay, Cincinnati Enquirer (Cincinnati); Mike Grizzard, Greenville (N.C.) Daily Reflector (East Carolina); Ron Higgins, Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal (Memphis); Trey Iles, New Orleans Times-Picayune (Tulane); and Chris Perkins, Dallas Morning News (North Texas).

SCOUTING THE INDEPENDENTS

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive backfield	Notre Dame
Best wide receivers	Tulsa
Best offensive line	Notre Dame
Best defensive line	Notre Dame
Best linebackers	Louisville
Best secondary	Southern Mississippi
Best special teams	Southern Mississippi
Hardest hitter	Mark Libano, LB, East Carolina
Best backup quarterback	John Fitzgerald, Tulsa
Best pro prospect	Roman Oben, OT, Louisville
Best stadium	Michie Stadium, Army
Best rivalry	Army-Ivory

RANKING THE RECRUITING

1. Notre Dame (Best recruit: LB Kory Minor). Minor, wide receiver Randy Moss and defensive tackle Jerry Wise are just three of the 45 Americans who give the Irish the nation's best recruiting class.
2. Louisville (TE Ben Greene)
3. Tulane (QB Shaun King)
4. Southern Mississippi (LB T.J. Slaughter)
5. Tulsa (TB Charles Higgins)
6. East Carolina (WR Troy Smith)
7. Memphis (LB Marcus Gary)
8. Cincinnati (LB Hassan Champion)
9. Northeast Louisiana (OL Michael Harvey)
10. North Texas (DT Kevin Williams, Army and Navy don't announce their incoming players.)

establish an over-under for how many school records the Tigers will break.

Shocker of the year: East Carolina over Illinois, September 23. Sure, the Illini ripped them in the Liberty Bowl, but the Pirates are a year older. And wiser. And the Illinois defense is not quite as formidable.

Bowl bound: Even if Notre Dame were to win only two games, some bowl would find a way to skirt the NCAA rules and invite the Irish to play. Louisville has a cushy schedule, and if it doesn't play in a bowl, something is wrong. East Carolina should qualify for the Liberty Bowl again.

Biggest shoes to fill: Howard Schnellenberger's. Say what you want regarding his proclamations about winning a national championship at Louisville, but Schnellenberger revitalized the program. Now it's up to new Coach Ron Cooper to sustain things. With a 50,000-seat on-campus stadium scheduled for 1997, he has little margin for error.

Most underrated player: East Carolina linebacker Mark Libano. All he did last year was make 135 tackles (13 behind the line), knock down seven passes and force one fumble. He had 21 tackles against Tulsa alone.

Most overrated player: Notre Dame quarterback Ron Powlus. Calm down, Irish fans. There's no way Powlus could live up to the expectations that accompanied him as he entered into one of college football's most high-profile positions. Powlus is a good quarterback who will get much better, but he isn't a savior (no one is) and should be allowed time to develop.

Best head coach: Lou Holtz, Notre Dame. He is a master motivator, and he

may have no peer when it comes to game-day abilities.

Best coaching staff: Notre Dame. Bob Davie (defensive coordinator) and Bob Chmiel (recruiting coordinator/tight ends coach) are perhaps the best in the country at what they do.

Coach on the hot seat: Buddy Teevens, Tulane. Teevens is 6-28 in three seasons at Tulane, including 1-10 last year. With games against Wake Forest, Rice, Southwestern Louisiana and Navy on this year's schedule, the Green Wave should win a few games. If it doesn't, the already-oppressive New Orleans climate could heat up a little for Buddy.

Best bets: Holtz will vehemently defend the school's decision to play all three service academies this season. . . . East Carolina quarterback Marcus Crandell will throw five touchdown passes in a game. . . . New Memphis Coach Rip Scherer will not send a thank-you note to former Tigers mentor Chuck Stobart, a Bo Schemmochler disciple, for scheduling a trip to Michigan this year. . . . Southern Miss again will have one of the nation's top giveaway/takeaway ratios. . . . Northeast Louisiana wide receiver Stepfret Williams will have at least two touchdown catches of more than 50 yards.

Odds and ends: East Carolina has signed a deal with ESPN that gives the cable network exclusive rights to Pirates home games from 1996-2000. The school is guaranteed eight broadcasts on ESPN or ESPN2 during the contract. . . . North Texas used the lure of Texas Stadium to entice Kansas to Dallas for the Eagles' inaugural home game in Division I-A. . . . A winning season by Memphis would be the Tigers' fourth in a row, something that hasn't happened since 1973-77. . . . Notre Dame takes a two-year break from playing Michigan and Michigan State, replacing those traditional rivals with Ohio State and Texas.

—MICHAEL BRADLEY

Ascending: East Carolina. Last season's Liberty Bowl loss to Illinois notwithstanding, the young Pirates are on the rise. Nineteen starters and 46 lettermen return to a program that was floundering because of injuries and youth just three years ago. Quarterback Marcus Crandell is one of the top young passers in the country, and Coach Steve Logan is doing some impressive resume-building. Why no conference wants this program is somewhat confusing.

Descending: North Texas. The Eagles are excited about their jump to Division I-A this year, but the thrills of playing big-time ball should be erased quickly. Last year's Southland Conference champs will be lucky to win three games in 1995. The road to I-A respectability will be long and painful.

Nightmare schedule: Northeast Louisiana. A few more seasons like this and the Indians will be able to retire the trophy. Although they don't start the season with four road games (like last year), they do visit Colorado, Mississippi State and Auburn. Trips to Fresno State, Missouri, Nevada and Louisville won't be easy, either.

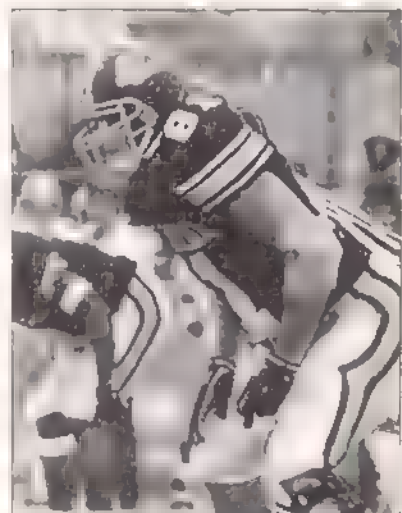
Dream schedule: Louisville. If the Cardinals don't win at least seven games, something's wrong. Their '95 opponents were a combined 51-71-1 last year, and only North Carolina won more than six I-A games. Check out November: Tulane, Northeast Louisiana and North Texas visit. Thanksgiving comes early with those turkeys.

Best matchup of the year: Notre Dame at Ohio State, September 30. When these teams first met in 1935, the Irish pulled one of their biggest upsets. Down 13-0 in the fourth quarter, Notre Dame used the heroics of Andy Pilney and Bill Shakespeare to pull out an 18-13 victory. The Irish won the next year, too (7-2), but the teams haven't met since.

Worst matchup of the year: Northeast Louisiana at Auburn, November 4. Instead of putting out a line, oddsmakers should



Receiver Derrick Mayes' talents should help lead to an enjoyable season for Notre Dame.



East Carolina linebacker Mark Libano made 135 tackles last season and is one of the nation's best.



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HOPE ON THE BAYOU

Super recruit Kevin Faulk raises spirits of LSU fans by staying in his home state

By WILLIAM WEATHERS

The persistent thunderstorm outside Pete's Sports Cafe in Lafayette, La., had finally ceased. And the cheers that once filled the place were nothing more than a memory.

Attired in a purple pullover LSU sweat-shirt, Kevin Faulk decided to call it a day. But this wasn't just any day.

Not for Faulk, the 5-foot-10, 195-pound All-America running back from nearby Carencro (La.) High who had just publicly announced his commitment to LSU, nor the hundreds of diehard Tigers fans who had turned January 24 into a purple-and-gold holiday. Mardi Gras still was several weeks away, but the atmosphere at Pete's superseded that generated by any carnival parade.

"We're treating this like a home game," one LSU fan said.

To understand such fervor, you have to know the recent history of LSU football. Tigers faithful have endured six consecutive losing seasons—the longest drought in school history—so they hang their collective breath on any possible solution to their team's lingering difficulties.

A year earlier, Josh Booty, a star quarterback at Evangel Christian Academy in Shreveport, La., signed with LSU. But Booty, regarded by some as the country's top prep prospect, opted for baseball before ever taking a snap at LSU. He signed a lucrative contract with the Florida Marlins, officially ending the dreams of Tigers fans.

Faulk, perhaps the nation's top recruit in '95, didn't disappoint the LSU faithful.

"The last month heated up a bit, but I took it all in stride," he said. "I didn't let anything get to my head, or anybody on the side get to me. It was rarely easy at times to handle."

Faulk was a bit under the weather at Pete's after a week of traveling (he took his final three official visits—to LSU, Florida State and Florida—in the same week) and a case of chicken pox.

"The last week, people were telling me it would heat up even more than it was the last month," he said later. "But I caught the chicken pox, so I wasn't able to go to school and didn't receive phone calls. So it wasn't really that bad. I probably wouldn't have been able to go to class at all that week had I received all of the phone calls."

The week leading up to National Signing Day (February 1) was an eventful one for

Faulk, 17, who became a father the morning he returned from his visit to Florida. Because of an expected media crush, he decided to announce his college choice at Pete's, a sports bar whose proprietor, Preston Guidry, had no idea what was about to take place—or which school Faulk would choose.

Hoping for the best, LSU fans traveled

supporter Larry Aycock said. "To see a Louisiana player of his caliber stay home and play for us is great. (Former LSU coach) Paul Dietzel and Charlie McClendon went to major bowl games and even won a national championship by signing such Louisiana talents as Billy Cannon, Tommy Casanova and Bert Jones."

One particularly interested viewer was



As LSU fans tallgated in the parking lot of Pete's Sports Cafe in Lafayette, La., a horde of media gathered inside to hear Carencro (La.) High star running back Kevin Faulk commit to the Tigers.

from all parts of the state to witness Faulk's announcement. A tailgate party began at 7 a.m., and five television stations were there to televise the event.

"When Kevin chose LSU, he lifted the spirits of every Tiger fan," longtime LSU

Gerry DiNardo, the Tigers' new coach, who was watching the drama unfold just an hour down Interstate-10 in Baton Rouge.

"I'm in my office watching this and I can't believe it," said DiNardo, who spoke with Faulk on a cellular phone just minutes after-

ward. "I put the TV on and I see all of these people. It was a great day for us."

In a brief, prepared statement, Faulk gave thanks to many people, including DiNardo's predecessor, Curley Hallman, and Larry Edmondson, the former LSU assistant who laid the groundwork of Faulk's recruitment.

Hallman had signed Carencro's top player the previous three years, and while NCAA regulations prohibited him from talking about Faulk, there was little doubt Hallman coveted him since the day in 1992 that then-sophomore Faulk quarterbacked the Golden Bears to their first state title. Faulk led Carencro to a 28-27 overtime victory against Neville for the Class 5A title and earned Most Valuable Player honors.

"He helped draw the community closer together," Carencro assistant coach Tony Courville said. "At the state finals, they had people who used to be enemies that were pulling together."

Faulk's legend continued to grow during his junior and senior seasons. By the time his high school career ended, he owned 17 school records, including rushing yards (4,877), rushing touchdowns (62) and total

all-purpose yards and intercepted 11 passes in cameo appearances as a defensive back.

Yet whenever possible, Faulk was more than willing to relinquish the spotlight and share his good fortune with others.

"I'm proud to have a lot of records," he said. "But I owe that all to the offensive line, the defense and our coaching staff. We just played hard on the field."

Faulk was featured on ESPN's *Scholastic Sports America* before last season and was honored by *Parade* magazine, *USA Today* and Reebok after it, making those respective All-America teams. He also was chosen as the Atlanta Touchdown Club's Offensive Player of the Year. Faulk can expect to also be in the limelight at LSU, as he likely will be on the field early in the Tigers' season-opener at Texas A&M on September 2.

Faulk, who saw a number of Carencro teammates recruited before him, took a mature, honest approach when it came to his recruitment. He trimmed his list of prospective schools to 10 before his senior season and whittled it to five midway through the year. He took his first trip, to Notre Dame, in December.

"I realized when I got to Notre Dame I wouldn't be able to go too far away from home," Faulk said. "I mean, my mom and dad were with me and I was still missing home. I'm not ashamed to say it. . . . I'm a mama's boy and I didn't want to go too far from home."

Dennis Erickson's departure eliminated Miami, leaving Faulk with his last three trips, which he lumped together in the same week. After a visit to LSU, Faulk and his family piled into their car and headed east for trips to Florida State and Florida. But for Faulk, the decision became clearer by the mile.

"I really knew where I wanted to go about three weeks before I even visited LSU," he said. "I really didn't need to visit. I just knew it."

RUNNING WILD



LSU, which has endured a school-record six straight losing seasons, figures to look to Kevin Faulk for immediate help. If he gets significant playing time, he'll have a chance to become one of the SEC's greatest freshman rushers. Following is a list of the SEC's Top 10 first-year ground-gainers:

PLAYER, SCHOOL	YARDS	YEAR
1. Herschel Walker, Georgia	1,616	1980
2. Emmitt Smith, Florida	1,341	1987
3. James Stewart, Tennessee	939	1991
4. Moe Williams, Kentucky	928	1993
5. Dalton Hilliard, LSU	901	1982
6. Rodney Hampton, Georgia	890	1987
7. Fred Taylor, Florida	873	1994
8. Tony Green, Florida	856	1974
9. Erict Rhett, Florida	845	1990
10. Bo Jackson, Auburn	829	1982

DiNardo was keenly aware of what Faulk meant to his first LSU recruiting class. Less than an hour after the news conference introducing him as the Tigers' new coach in December, he was off to visit Faulk.

"I've never been involved with a kid who captured so many people's attention," DiNardo said. "It was on the news live, people were tailgating outside. It's a first for me, but I don't think it will be the last."

Faulk doesn't let all the talk go to his head. "I don't think I'm going to be a savior," he said. "I'd be a great asset to them. Football is not a one-man thing . . . especially not in the SEC. It's going to take a team effort to bring LSU to where it used to be. But I'm ready for that challenge." ♦

William Weathers is a sportswriter for the Lafayette (La.) Advertiser.



touchdowns (89). He also used his spectacular running ability and 4.35 speed to terrorize opponents on kick returns.

As a senior in 1994, Faulk rushed for 1,870 yards and 23 touchdowns in 11 games while leading Carencro to its third consecutive district championship. The Golden Bears were 32-5 during Faulk's three-year career, a career in which he totaled 7,612

THE SPORTING NEWS PRIME PROSPECTS

The Sporting News asked five top recruiting "gurus" to provide lists of the top seniors at each position. We have compiled those rankings into one "master" list. The players are listed alphabetically by position. Check marks indicate that a player is considered one of the nation's best by that recruiting analyst. KEY: BB—Bill Buchalter; TL—Tom Lemming; GW—G&W Recruiting Service; BC—Bluechip Illustrated; NR—National Recruiting Advisor.

QUARTERBACKS (14)		HL/WL	Town/High school	BB	TL	GW	BC	NR	Alexander Jackson	6-4/320	Moss Point, Miss./Moss Point	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Jonathan Beasley	6-2/200		Glendale Ariz./Cactus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jefferson Neely	6-6/305	Cincinnati, Ohio/Cincinnati	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Adam Biedsoe	6-4/200		Yakima Wash./Eisenhower	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Trevor Roberts	6-4/280	Norco, Calif./Norco	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Quincy Carter	6-3/185		Decatur Ga./SW DeKalb	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Marques Sullivan	6-5/300	Chicago/Fennick	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rashard Casey	6-3/190		Hoboken N.J./Hoboken	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Chad Ward	6-6/310	Kennewick, Wash./Riverview	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Brian Cordyack	6-3/190		Reston Va./South Lakes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Zac Zezas	6-3/270	Alachua, Fla./Santa Fe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tim Couch	6-5/215		Hyden Ky./Leslie County	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN (15)		HL/WL	Town/High school	BB	TL	GW	BC	NR
Sean Davis	6-0/195		Lakewood Colo./Bear Creek	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Courtney Brown	6-5/235	Moncks Corner S.C./Maxeena	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kevin Feterik	6-2/195		Los Alamitos Calif./Los Alamitos	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Carlos Crumrine	6-5/275	Monticello Fla./Jefferson Co.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Willie Gardner	6-2/185		Live Oak Fla./Suwannee Co.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Demond Gibson	6-3/305	Pittsburgh/Penn Hills	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Earl Hanford	6-3/210		Martinsville Ind./Martinsville	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Eric Downing	6-5/270	Pelerson, N.J./Kennedy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tim Hasselback	6-2/195		Westwood Mass./Xenovan Brothers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Donald Heaven	6-5/265	Miami/Carol City	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Odell James	6-4/200		Houston/MacArthur	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Enoch Jackson	6-3/245	Fort Worth Texas/Wyatt	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jason Kapsner	6-5/215		Eden Prairie Minn./Eden Prairie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Eric Jefferson	6-4/250	Shreveport, La./Evangel Christian	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mike Van Raaphorst	6-4/200		La Mesa Calif./Grossmont	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jerome King	6-4/245	West Monroe La./West Monroe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RUNNING BACKS (17)		HL/WL	Town/High school	BB	TL	GW	BC	NR	Anthony Overstreet	6-3/240	Atlanta/Douglass	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Darrell Bush	5-9/175		Houston/Jersey Village	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Robbie Smith	6-7/245	Flint Mich./Northern	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cecil Collins	5-10/200		Leesville, La./Leesville	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Isiah Walker	6-3/300	Miami/American	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jack Crooks	5-10/175		Union City Calif./James Logan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Chris Watkins	6-4/270	Gilbert Ariz./Highland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Darren Davis	5-9/175		Miami/Southridge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jesse Warren	6-6/255	Dallas/Carter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DeAngelo Evans	5-10/195		Wichita Kan./Covington School	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Errol Williams	6-6/240	Santa Ana, Calif./Mater Dei	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nick Gorgis	6-0/213		Dublin, Ohio/Sooto	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Derion Yates	6-7/240	Houston/B.T. Washington	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marcus Horton	6-2/205		Atlanta/Archer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LINEBACKERS (13)		HL/WL	Town/High school	BB	TL	GW	BC	NR
Sedrick Irvin	5-11/210		Miami/Miami High of Southridge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Carlon Bextley	6-1/240	Carrollton Ga./Carrollton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mario Jackson	6-0/185		Sharon Pa./Sharon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Chris Ciabome	6-3/220	Riverside Calif./John W. North	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Edgerin James	6-1/210		Immokalee Fla./Immokalee	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Darnell Chappel	6-4/220	Indianapolis/Warren Central	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sedric Jones	6-3/230		Altus Okla./Altus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jarod Cowens	6-2/220	Canton Mass./Canton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kenika Logan	5-11/185		Fort Smith Ark./Northside	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Sheddick Gurley	6-3/235	Tallahassee Fla./Godby	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Patrick Pass	5-0/200		Tucker Ga./Tucker	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Andy Katzenmoyer	6-5/240	Westerville, Ohio/South	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Durrel Price	6-1/205		Sylmar Calif./Sylmar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Derryl Owens	6-0/215	Jackson Miss./Provine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ketric Sanford	5-9/190		Corsicana Texas/Corsicana	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jeremiah Pharms	6-3/220	Sacramento Calif./Valley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wilson Snowden	6-0/205		Boulder Colo./Boulder	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	James Pitts	6-1/245	Phoenix City Ariz./Central	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Curtis Williams	5-11/175		Fresno Calif./Bullard	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Marcus Smith	6-1/215	Bolingbrook Ill./Bolingbrook	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WIDE RECEIVERS (14)		HL/WL	Town/High school	BB	TL	GW	BC	NR	Brandon Spoon	6-3/225	Burlington N.C./Williams	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Plexico Burruss	6-4/195		Virginia Beach Va./Green Run	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Chris Thery	6-3/215	Baytown Texas/Lee	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kenneth Davis	6-0/190		Houston/B.T. Washington	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Nathaniel Webster	6-1/215	Miami/Northwestlam	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jerry Dioron	6-3/195		Crowley La./Crowley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	DEFENSIVE BACKS (12)		HL/WL	Town/High school	BB	TL	GW	BC	NR
Darren Dodson	5-10/170		Memphis Tenn./Westwood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Brandon Berg	5-11/175	Abilene Texas/Cooper	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stan Guynes	6-2/175		Los Alamitos Calif./Los Alamitos	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LaAndre Brown	6-0/170	Fort Worth Texas/Wyatt	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tony Hartley	6-1/180		Los Alamitos Calif./Los Alamitos	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ralph Brown	5-11/180	La Puente Calif./Bishop Amat	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jermale Kelly	6-3/180		Greenville S.C./Berea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Joe Dawkins	5-11/180	Hackensack N.J./Hackensack	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mai Lawyer	5-11/175		Moncks Corner S.C./Berkeley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Lorenzo Ferguson	6-2/175	Chesapeake Va./Western Branch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marvin Mincks	6-2/170		Miami/Northwestern	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	John Gibson	6-0/175	Papillon Neb./Papillon-Lavista	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Raki Nelson	6-1/170		Harrisburg Pa./Bishop McDevitt	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Dwayne Goodrich	6-0/175	Oak Lawn Ill./Richards	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Titus Pettigrew	6-2/180		Clemmons N.C./West Forsyth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Gerald Griffin	6-1/170	Murfreesboro Tenn./Riverdale	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
R. Jay Soward	5-11/175		Rialto Ca./Eisenhower	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Shawn McCorkie	6-0/175	Dorham Ala./Northview	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
William Spearman	6-2/180		Camden N.J./Woodrow Wilson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jon Murrey	6-2/180	Liburn Ga./Parkview	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Quinton Spotwood	5-11/175		Elizabeth N.J./Elizabeth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	William Neely	6-3/195	Abington Pa./Abington	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TIGHT ENDS (7)		HL/WL	Town/High school	BB	TL	GW	BC	NR	Robert Pollard	6-2/190	Orange Park Fla./Orange Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dwight Edge	6-6/220		Apopka Fla./Apopka	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	ATHLETES (14)		HL/WL	Town/High school	BB	TL	GW	BC	NR
Rufus French	6-5/220		Amory Miss./Amory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Darren Bennett	6-4/200	Wadsworth N.C./Anson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Don O'Leary	6-5/228		Cleveland/St. Ignatius	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cullen Bryant Jr.	6-3/220	Germanstown Tenn./Harrison	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vaughn Smith	6-3/240		Hyattsville Md./DeMatha	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Mike Burden	6-2/210	Palatine Ill./Palatine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mike Solwold	6-8/232		Hartland Wis./Arrowhead	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Daymon Carroll	5-11/180	Norristown Pa./Norristown	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gorman Thornton	6-4/245		Montgomery Ala./Jeff Davis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LaCory Collins	6-3/200	Oakland/Skyline	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brian Toll	6-5/220		Lebanon Ore./Lebanon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Stephen Coughlin	6-5/215	Ansonia Conn./Ansonia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN (15)		HL/WL	Town/High school	BB	TL	GW	BC	NR	Brandon Davies	6-1/195	Ada Okla./Ada	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jeff Backus	6-6/270		Norcross Ga./Norcross	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Aashin Gatten	6-0/195	Washington Pa./Washington	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brad Barnes	6-7/265		Tabo Va./Tabo	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Kevin Harvey	5-11/175	Wayne Pa./Valley Forge Prep	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shedrick Blackmon	6-5/310		Pensacola Fla./Escambia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ted Jacenda	6-1/215	Newhall Ga./Hart	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Billy Brann	6-4/270		Blue Springs Mo./Blue Springs So.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ortega Jenkins	6-3/200	Long Beach Calif./Jordan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Neil Carroll	6-6/280		Chicago-St. Patrick	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan Mantosh	5-11/170	Cheshire Conn./Cheshire	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Travis Clardge	6-6/290		Vancouver Wash./Fort Vancouver	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Brian Smith	6-3/205	Tatum Texas/Tatum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bernard Gooden	6-3/290		Bradenton Fla./Manatee	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Snadrick Washington	6-4/210	Mesa Verde/Venice	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tony Ippolito	6-5/265		Stockton Calif./Lincoln	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									

ABOUT THE 'GURUS' . . .

Bill Buchalter, a sportswriter for the Orlando Sentinel, publishes the *Bill Buchalter Recruiting Newsletter*, which is in its 10th year of publication. To subscribe, mail inquiries to 344 East Hillcrest St., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

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OTHER PLAYERS RECEIVING VOTES

BILL BUCHALTER—RBs: Robert Kanford, 5-11/180 Maui, Hawaii. WRs: Desmond Geter 6-0/170 Spartanburg, S.C./Dorman. DL: Chris Blank, 6-6/245, Sewell, N.J./Washington Township. Paul Schiller, 6-4/305, La Mesa, Calif./Helo. Brian Wiley, 6-4/286, Conway, Ark./Conway. DL: Tyrese Benning, 6-5/285 Buford/Turner Carroll. J.L. Fritch, 6-3/260 Newburg, Ore./Newburg. Darrell Stetler, 6-3/260, St. Louis/McQuier. LBs: Shannon Bazzell, 6-2/195 Lewisville Texas/Lewisville Asali. Faapouli, 6-0/235 Killeen, Texas/Killeen. Jared Lampe, 6-4/225, Paducah, Ky./Lone Oak. DBs: Jevon Bell, 6-0/205 Pholo, Calif./Pholo. FLY: ATH: Darrell Arconaci, 6-2/178 Honolulu/St. Louis.

TOM LEMMING—QB: Kenton Evans, 6-3/170, Memphis, Tenn./Veechwood. Scott Kavanagh, 6-4/190 Naperville, Ill./North. Sergio Washington, 6-3/190 Swainsboro, Ga./Swainsboro. RBs: Adrian Brown, 6-1/195 Canton, Ohio/McKinley. Kevin Brown, 6-3/230 McAlester, Okla./McAlester. Laverne Cole, 6-1/185 Jacksonville/Fibault. Kamecia Davis, 5-9/190 Dolhan, Ala./Dolhan. Roni Dayne, 5-11/240 Pine Hill, N.J./Overbrook. Mike Green, 6-1/230, Klen, Texas/Klen. Nehemiah Minor, 6-2/205 Detroit/Pershing. Chris McCoy, 5-8/195 Winston-Salem, N.C./Reynolds. Rashon Spikes, 5-11/185, Meriden, Conn./Maloney. Pamela Walton, 5-8/185, Omaha, Neb./Central. Corbin Washington, 6-0/185, Holyoke, Mass./Holyoke. WRs: William Smith, 6-2/185 Bay City, Texas/Bay City. TE: Joey Duplan, 6-5/230, Mobile, Ala./Murphy. Brad DeFauw, 6-4/230 Apple Valley, Minn./Apple Valley. Demond Williams, 6-4/225, Camilla, Ga./Michel-Baker. DL: Doreen Kass, 6-5/250, McLean, Va./McLean. Faesaca Meko, 6-5/295, Wilmington, Calif./Banning. James Moore, 6-4/310 Lynwood, Calif./Lynwood. Jeremiah Spurling, 6-6/265, Greenwood, Ind./Center Grove. Jermaine Wilkerson, 6-5/320, Dayton, Ohio/Juvenile. Steve Williams, 6-6/260, Sapulpa, Okla./Sapulpa. DL: Brian Grant, 6-4/240, East Grand Rapids, Mich./East Grand Rapids.

Marcus Jackson, 6-1/220 Beaumont, Texas/West Brook. Ronald Moore, 6-3/270 Sanford, Fla./Seminole. Marcus Stroud, 6-6/250 Outman, Ga./Brooks Co. Brian Smith, 6-3/235 Lindale, Ga./Pepperell. Dave Sucura, 5-9/260 Sterling Heights, Mich./Stevens. LB: James Fair, 6-3/230 Athens, Ga./Cedar Shoals. Joey Goodspeed, 6-1/220 Oswego, Ill./Oswego. Eric Garrett, 6-3/220 Bolingbrook, Ill./Bolingbrook. Shannon Wadley, 6-3/220 Swainsboro, Ga./Swainsboro. DB: Mike Brown, 5-11/185 Scottsdale Ariz./Saguaro. Tom Hendricks, 6-2/200 Aldine, Texas/Essenhower. Anthony Johnson, 6-2/205 Lufkin, Texas/Lufkin. Anthony Thompson, 6-2/195 Key West, Fla./Key West.

PHIL GROSZ—WR: Todd McHamara, 6-2/190 Newton, Mass./North. Dark Warrick, 6-2/185, Slow, Ohio/Vash Jesuit. DL: Joe Howerton, 6-7/310 Washington, D.C./Woodson. Seen Jarnie, 6-6/280, Anaheim, Calif./Esperanza. DL: Marcus Perez, 6-4/245, Medina, Ohio/Medina. Rueben Ricards, 6-4/270 Redwood Calif./Sequoia. LB: Mike Marshall, 6-3/225 Cincinnati/St. Xavier. DB: Winston Forbes, 5-10/175 Miami/Southridge. Shaun Haslop, 5-0/175 Pasadena, Calif./Mar Ray Hawthorne. 6-0/180, Cape Coral, Fla./Cape Coral.

BLUE CHIP ILLUSTRATED—RB: Arny Dew, 5-10/185, Toms River, N.J./North. John Enns, 6-3/247 Detroit/East Detroit. Mike Graham, 5-10/185, Covina, Calif./Charter Oak. Chad Grant, 6-1/205 Lubbock, Texas/Montgomery Vernon Maxwell. 6-3/195, Midwest City Okla./Midwest City. Danie Robertson, 6-0/180, Pontiac, Mich./Pontiac Central. DL: Jell Backus, 6-6/295 Norcross Ga./Norcross. Leon Hays, 6-5/315, Bradenton, Fla./Manatee. Shaunte Knight, 6-5/270 Alexander City Ala./Russell. Paul Tannous, 6-4/275 Houston/Cypress Creek. Chad Thacker, 6-6/275, Longwood, Colo./Centaurus. DL: Javier Collins, 6-7/255, St. Paul, Minn./St. Thomas. Jeffrey Fisher, 6-3/275, Coatesville, Pa./Coatesville Area. Casey Hampton, 6-2/255, Galveston, Texas/Bell.

Marcus Sanders, 6-5/230 Mesquite, Texas/Mesquite. Kerry Smith, 6-5/250 Stevenson Ala./North Jackson. LB: Chris Edwards, 6-5/215, Sandersville, Ga./Washington Co. Kevin Malone, 6-3/236 Oxford, Ala./Oxford. Kwasi Palmer, 6-2/225 Sulphur Springs, Texas/Sulphur Springs. DB: Andre Kendrick, 5-9/175 Lynchburg, Va./Glass. Mike Woods, 5-10/170, Del City, Okla./Del City. ATH: Manuel DeGraffenried, 5-11/175 Wilkes-Barre, Pa./G.A.R. Memorial.

NATIONAL RECRUITING ADVISOR—QB: Malik Campbell, 6-3/190, Bullard/Turner Carroll. Mike Uery, 6-4/210, Tallahassee, Fla./North Florida Christian. Tony Zimmerman, 6-4/215, Harrison City, Pa./Penn Trafford. RB: Thomas Jones, 5-11/175 Big Stone Gap, Va./Powell Valley. WR: Louis Dawson, 6-1/180 Federal Way, Wash./Decatur. Demetrius Dotson, 6-1/185, Staten Island, N.Y./Curtis. Craig Dudley, 6-0/170, Fort Lauderdale, Fla./St. Thomas Aquinas. Marcus Knight, 6-2/165, Sylacauga, Ala./Comer. Brian Woodard, 6-0/185, Spartanburg, S.C./Spartanburg. DL: Mike Favina, 6-3/290 Cranston, R.I./West Zeevid Games. 6-7/320, Trenton, N.J./Central. Tyler Garman, 6-6/280, Rogers, Ark./Rogers. Ben Kopp, 6-4/275, New Kensington, Pa./Valley Richard Land, 6-7/280, Nashville, Tenn./Brentwood Academy. Brian Minihart, 6-3/285, Butler, Pa./Butler Area. Roger Roesser, 6-6/280, Round Rock, Texas/Round Rock. DL: Nathan Arns, 6-4/255, Dublin, Ga./Dublin. DeAndre Harris, 6-3/293, Davenport, Iowa/Assumption. Kevin Johnson, 6-8/240 Washington, D.C./Dunbar. Kevin White, 6-4/250, Courtland, Ala./Courtland. LB: Endrick Gialbone, 6-2/225, Baton Rouge, La./Southern Lab. Robert Franklin, 6-2/215, St. Louis/Mehlville. Carl Hines, 6-1/200 Bradenton, Fla./Southeast. Eric Stevenson, 6-4/228, Crescent, Okla./Crescent. DB: Gary Berry, 6-1/205, Columbus, Miss./Columbus. Cy Price, 6-1/170, Eunice, La./Eunice. Gary Robinson, 6-0/180, Decatur, Ga./Tucker. Gary Scott, 6-1/180, Riviera Beach, Fla./Suncoast. Robert Simmons, 6-0/175, Brockton, Mass./Brockton.

RECRUITING NOTEBOOK

ON THE MOVE: Hot-shot quarterback Chris Redman hasn't played a down of college football, but he already has caused some controversy.

Redman, from Louisville, Ky., signed with Illinois on February 1. On February 2, Illinois Coach Lou Tepper announced that offensive coordinator Greg Landry would not be returning to his staff. Wait a minute, said Redman and his father/coach, Bob: Landry was the main reason Chris signed with the Illini.

Usually, though, student/athletes like Redman are stuck. The letter of intent is signed by the athlete, his parents and the university's athletic director. It states—in a double-lined rectangular box for emphasis—that the athlete signs "with the institution." It further states that, "If the coach leaves the institution or the sports program, I remain bound by the provisions of this (commitment)."

In this case, Tepper agreed to release Redman from his letter of intent. Still, Redman had to appeal to the Collegiate Conferences Association for a waiver. In somewhat of a surprise move—likely because Tepper gave his "blessing"—a five-member CCA committee ruled in Redman's favor.

Had the committee not ruled in Redman's favor, he still could have gone elsewhere—but he would have lost a year of eligibility. He ended up signing with Oklahoma and its new coach, Howard Schnellenberger. Schnellenberger also signed another highly touted quarterback in Justin Fuente of Tulsa, Okla.

THE NUMBERS GAME: At Syracuse, No. 44 is the No. 1 choice of running backs who yearn to be special.

How meaningful is No. 44 to the Orangemen? Consider the university changed its zip code from 13210 to 13244. And in 1988, when the school changed phone systems, the exchange was switched from 423 to 443.

The fervor for 44 started with Jim Brown, who wore the number while earning All-America honors from 1954-56. Since Brown has left campus, nine players have opted to wear 44 in hopes of living up to the legacy. But few have succeeded.

Ernie Davis (1959-61) and Floyd Little (1964-66) proved worthy of the double-digit, and Michael Owens (1987-89) enjoyed success. But most of Brown's followers have fallen short of the expectations.

But that didn't stop incoming freshman Rob Konrad from opting to don the number. Konrad, a 6-foot-3, 230-pound fullback from St. John's Prep School in Danvers, Mass., hopes the expectations of wearing No. 44 don't wear him down like they did Tom Stephens, Bill Schoonover, Rich Panczynszyn, Mandel Robinson, Glenn Moore and Terry Richardson. Stay tuned.

FIGHTING BACK: After taking a beating (at least by its standards) on the field last fall, Notre Dame whipped everyone in recruiting and was crowned mythical national champion by every talent-rating guru.

The Fighting Irish, 6-5-1 in 1994, signed the player considered the best linebacker

on the West Coast (Kory Minor of LaPuente, Calif.) and the best linebacker in the Southwest (Jimmy Frnday of Fort Bend, Texas). But they didn't stop there.

They also signed two of the top offensive linemen in the nation in Mike Rosenthal of Penn High in Mishawaka, Ind., and Tim Ridder of Creighton Prep in Omaha, Neb. But wait—there's more. Notre Dame also signed Randy Moss, a wide receiver from DuPont High (Belle, W.Va.) who has been compared to Michael Irvin, and Jerry Wisne of Jenks (Okla.) High, one of the nation's top defensive linemen.

GATOR FLIP-FLOP: While Florida State was the beneficiary of one oral de-commitment by a top recruit, the Seminoles were hurt by another.

Dan Kendra, the top high school quarterback prospect in the nation, signed with Florida State after originally committing to Penn State. But defensive lineman Reggie McGrew, generally considered one of the top three defensive linemen in the nation, signed with Florida after committing to FSU.

What made McGrew's situation so intriguing is that his father, Taylor, who also was his high school coach at Lafayette County High in Mayo, Fla., is an FSU alum. In addition, Reggie didn't make an official recruiting visit to Florida. But Reggie did make a number of unofficial visits to Gainesville, which is about 60 miles southeast of Mayo.

UF has to be hoping that Reggie is as good a player as the most famous Lafayette County High grad—ex-Gators quarterback Kerwin Bell.

WHERE THE TOP PLAYERS SIGNED

Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Town/High school	College	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Town/High school	College
1 Kevin Faulk	RB	5-10/195	Carencro La./Carencro	LSU	11 Taked Spikes	LB	6-3/219	Sandersville Ga./Washington Co.	Auburn
2 Dan Kendra	QB	6-2/225	Bethlehem, Pa./Catholic	Florida State	12 Reggie McGrew	OL	6-3/270	Mayo, Fla./Lafayette Co.	Florida
3 Adrian Green	RB	6-0/195	Omaha, Neb./Central	Nebraska	13 James Spencer	FB	5-1/245	Monroe La./Ouachita	Notre Dame
4 Randy Moss	WR	6-5/205	Belle, W.Va./DuPont	Notre Dame	14 Corey Jones	WR	5-11/170	Lancaster Pa./Conestoga Valley	Penn State
5 Kory Minor	LB	6-2/225	LaPuente, Calif./Bishop Amat	Notre Dame	15 Jimmy Frnday	LB	6-5/230	Ford Bend, Texas/Wildowridge	Notre Dame
6 Mike Rosenthal	OL	6-7/290	Mishawaka, Ind./Penn	Notre Dame	16 Peter Warrick	WR	6-0/175	Bradenton, Fla./Southeast	Florida State
7 Marquise Houston	DB	6-1/190	Lauderdale Lakes, Fla./Boyd Anderson	Auburn	17 Matt Sincichomb	OL	6-7/300	Lilburn, Ga./Parkview	Georgia
8 Dayton McCutcheon	DB	5-11/175	LaPuente, Calif./Bishop Amat	USC	18 Desmond Thomas	DL	6-4/300	High Point, Md./High Point	Michigan St.
9 Brian Darden	RB	6-0/190	Vicksburg, Miss./Warner Central	Tennessee	19 Brock Heard	QB	6-5/220	Puyallup, Wash./Puyallup	Washington
10 Robert McQuarters	DB	5-11/180	Tulsa, Okla./Washington	Oklahoma St.	20 Brandon Houston	OL	6-6/280	Katy, Texas/Taylor	Texas A&M

TOP CLASSES

1. Notre Dame
2. Florida
3. Florida State
4. Auburn
5. Texas A&M
6. Penn State
7. Nebraska
8. USC
9. Tennessee
10. Michigan

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— **TIM CASSIDY**
Texas A&M Recruiting Coordinator

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— **ROB IANELLO**
Univ. of Arizona Recruiting Coordinator

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JUST TWO OF THE GUYS

One-armed cornerbacks blend in, yet stand out

By CARL DUBOIS

When it comes to one-armed cornerbacks, not everyone practices political correctness.

Boise State coaches call DaWuan Miller "Slot Machine." Trey Woods' Sam Houston State teammates have dubbed him "One-Armed Bandit."

Those seem like cruel and unsympathetic monikers for two players who were born with just one hand. Miller's left arm ends at the elbow. Woods' right arm ends just below the elbow. But both players seem to have an energy supply that has no end—and both say the jokes and nicknames they hear from teammates and coaches confirm they are part of the team. That's how they like it.

"If you're going to have one-and-a-half arms," Miller said, "you'd better have a sense of humor."

The urge to be accepted, to be treated like everybody else, has driven both players. Now they stand out, not because they're missing a hand, but because they excel.

The two seniors have known about each other for only a few months, yet each knows the other's story because, in many ways, each has lived it.

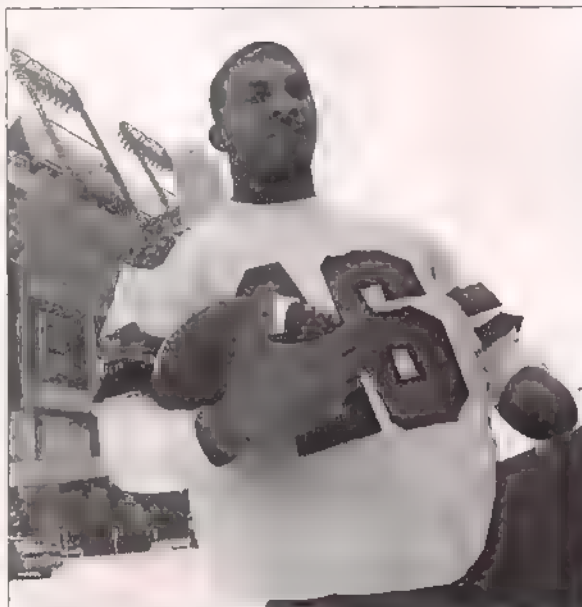
Both rejected using a prosthesis at a young age. Both were three-sport stars in high school. Both bench press more than 300 pounds. Fueled by challenges and the doubts of others, both deflect sympathy or special treatment as they would a lazy pass to the flat.

Miller, 22, can dunk a basketball, bowls in the 200s and drives a stick shift. He had 49 regular-season tackles last season plus two pivotal interceptions during Boise State's run in the I-AA playoffs, which ended with the Broncos losing to Youngstown State in

the title game.

"If he had two arms, he wouldn't be playing for Boise State," Boise State secondary coach Ron Gould said. "He'd be in the Pac-10."

Woods, whose motto is *carpe diem*, Latin for "seize the day," has a T-shirt that reads: "Second place is the first loser." Indeed, Woods, 21, is second to none when it comes to blocking kicks. Despite missing three games in 1994 with a broken thumb, he still blocked two kicks and ranks as Sam Houston State's career leader in blocked

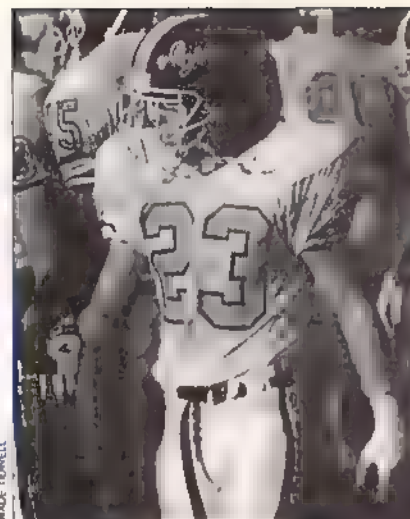


Boise State coaches call DaWuan Miller "Slot Machine," but he thinks you need a sense of humor if you have one-and-a-half arms.

kicks with 10 (six punts, two field goals, two extra points).

After a blocked kick or any big play, Miller's Boise State teammates give each other "dap" or high-fives. "Give me some nub," they tell him. Miller might dap them or rub their heads with his nub. "You're my left-hand man," they say.

Woods says his Sam Houston State teammates are afraid of his nub. "I give 'em a good shot with it every once in awhile," Woods said. "It's quite hard. They don't like the nub."



Trey Woods, a noted bully, hits his Sam Houston State teammates with his nub on occasion.

Miller and Woods are two sides of the same rare coin. This fall, their paths will cross: On September 16, Sam Houston State plays the Broncos on the bright blue turf in Boise, Idaho.

"I guess it will be like watching myself out there," Woods said.

Take a snapshot of Trey Woods, magnify the negative a bit and you might see DaWuan Miller.

At 5-foot-10 and 163 pounds, Woods would be considered small on many high school football teams in Texas, his home state. Miller is 6-2 and 184 pounds, ideal proportions for an NFL defensive back.

"He looks more like a football player than Woods does," said Sam Goodwin, coach at Northwestern State, a Southland Conference rival of Sam Houston State. Goodwin, whose team plays September 30 at Boise State, saw Miller in the I-AA finals. "His build is much more physical than Trey's," he said.

That hasn't kept Woods from blocking three kicks against Goodwin's teams.

"I don't know that I've seen anybody quicker on the takeoff," Goodwin said. "His get-off time on kicks is amazing. His reaction to the snap is the best I've seen. You have to plan for him on every kick. We plan for him and he still blocks them."

Woods may be small, but he's the closest thing to a bully there is in the Southland. No one cheats him out of his quota of personal fouls.

"He's kind of a cheap-shot artist," Goodwin said. "He's going to get his licks in. But I don't begrudge him that. I admire his toughness."

Woods says you can't seize the day with a soft grip.

"I try to pretend like every play's going to be my last play," he said. "If I have to run out there like a wild man to get my teammates fired up, I'll do that."

"It's not that you're trying to hurt the other

Continued

guy. You're just trying to do as much as you can within the whistle and sometimes it goes over the whistle just a little bit."

Some people might be offended by Woods' overzealous tactics. But he can't help it. After all, he learned to be tough at an early age. His parents divorced when Woods was 7. Miller's parents divorced when he was 4. But their mothers came from large families, and their stepfathers' families embraced them.

"Trey had a lot of love as a child," said Tammy Freeman, who was 16 when she gave birth to Woods. "I think that's why he's so giving. He works with children who have far more debilitating circumstances than he does."

But Woods experienced some rough times as a youth growing up in Saginaw, Texas, just north of Fort Worth. "Children can be cruel," Freeman said. "They strive so hard to be like everyone else that when they can point out someone who isn't, it helps their confidence."

But the only signals Woods got at home were of unlimited potential.

"Being young and naive," Freeman said, "I never thought about Trey's limitations. The only thing I thought was, 'I'm not letting anybody take him from me.' That's how you think when you're 16 and you have so many fears."

"Now, when I look back, I wonder sometimes how we made it. We've come so far. We've learned so much together. Trey has kept me in sync with believing nothing's impossible."

Freeman learned fast that her son was not handicapped. When he began to walk, she got him a plastic prosthesis. He'd take it off and play with it.

When Woods was old enough to play football, his mother called a YMCA coach to sign him up. She thought it was only fair to tell the coach about his arm. Woods was dispatched to a weak team. His first game was against the league powerhouse, which was coached by the man who'd pawned off Woods to the weak squad.

"The first time he touched the ball, Trey ran for a touchdown," Freeman said. "He ran up and down the field, and they won the game. After the game, the coach came to me and said, 'I made a mistake. He should be on my team.' I told him, 'No, he shouldn't.'"

Woods continued to dominate as a youth and later as a teen. But no college offered him a scholarship after high school, despite a senior year at Boswell High that saw him rush for more than 1,000 yards, compile an 11-1 pitching record and record a triple jump that sent him to the Texas state championship meet.

"He got letters from all over the country based on his stats," Freeman said. "When a scout would come and see him, the letters would stop."

Woods chose to walk on at Sam Houston State. On the first day of freshman practice, he introduced himself. An assistant coach firing balls at players from 10 yards away in what is known as "the machine-gun drill" took something off a throw intended for Woods.

Woods caught the ball and zipped it back to the coach. "Throw it harder!" he yelled.

Carpe diem.

In his first game, Woods made the tackle on the opening kickoff. Before the season was over, he'd blocked three field goals, was starting at cornerback and was on full scholarship. He even served on the "hands team" that covers inside kicks.

"I used to look at Trey and be amazed by what he does with one hand," Sam Houston Coach Ron Randleman said. "Now he's just one of the guys. I don't give (his arm) a second thought."

DaWuan Miller doesn't have Woods' reputation for late hits, but off the field he has struggled to stay within the whistle. "I suspended him for one game in '93 and benched him for another in '94," Boise State Coach Pokey Allen said. "He was a bother. He had some problems—nothing



Woods has seized the day at Sam Houston State, where he's a renowned kick-blocker.

major, but they kept getting in the way of him being a good player.

"He had some parking tickets, he'd miss study hall, he wasn't concentrating. There was always something hanging over his head."

But Miller didn't let the benching dampen his enthusiasm.

"He led the cheers for the guy who took his place," Gould said. "When he came to us and said he was ready, we knew he was."

Miller appreciates the lesson. "I needed to grow up a bit," he said. "I learned a lot about becoming a man. They don't just teach football here."

As a youth, the last thing Miller needed any help learning was how to play football. He was so good, in fact, his mother, Rochelle Morrison, recalls being uncomfortable at games—but not for reasons you might think.

"DaWuan ran the ball, played defense, kicked the ball and returned kickoffs," she said. "I'd be sitting near parents whose children had two good arms but never got to play. It was a little embarrassing."

Miller did it all in baseball too. At Battle Ground (Wash.) High, he pitched, played center field and led the team in steals and

hitting. He even was a switch-hitter.

Allen was the coach at nearby Portland State but didn't recruit Miller because of high out-of-state tuition costs. After Miller's freshman season at Boise State, Allen became the Broncos' coach and brought Gould with him to tutor the defensive backs.

"DaWuan was kind of defiant at first," said Gould, who tried to teach Miller to backpedal. "He was taught another way. It took him a long time to believe in what we were doing."

The story does not surprise Miller's mother. When others saw that her son was missing a hand, she instead saw the chip on his shoulder.

"He had quite a temper," she said. "No fuse at all. He would just explode. He would be teased and he would fight. When kids saw he wasn't going to let himself be picked on, they became his friends."

Miller's mother knows nothing is impossible to a 4-year-old boy who wants to be like his older brother.

"I'd always assumed DaWuan would wear shoes with Velcro straps," Morrison said. "But that's not the kind his brother had. He wanted whatever his brother had. That's siblings."

Morrison had no way to teach her son how to tie his shoes with one hand. So at age 4, he taught himself. She was the first of many stunned by watching him do it. Fifteen years later, Miller's girlfriend, Alice Hoast, saw him tie the knot at a bowling alley. "I was like, 'Wow, do that again,'" she said.

Miller's childhood was one episode after another of keeping up with his brother, one fistful at a time.

"If I gave a cookie to his brother," Morrison said, "his brother would hold out the other hand and ask for another. If I gave a cookie to DaWuan, he would automatically put it under his nub and reach for another."

Miller's hand is larger than most, and when he reaches with it, he usually doesn't miss. As Gould says, in unblinking coach-speak, "He's got great hands."

In the spring of 1992, Woods' high school baseball coach took him to see the Texas Rangers play the California Angels. Woods was told a pro scout wanted to meet him. Instead, pitcher Jim Abbott, then with the Angels, greeted Woods in the stands.

Abbott, whose right arm does not extend much past the elbow because of a birth defect, told Woods to keep up the good work. "I was speechless," Woods said. "Later, I was kind of mad there wasn't a scout there to see me."

Woods' mother said meeting Abbott, who now pitches for the Chicago White Sox, was important for her son.

"That day is a priceless memory," she said. "The look they had—they looked each other up and down. It was an instant recognition of what it took to get where they were."

It's a look her son might wear again this fall when he meets the other one-armed bandit of I-AA. ♦

Carl Dubois covers the Southland Conference and I-AA football for the Lake Charles (La.) American Press.

DIVISION I-AA TOP 20

PREDICTIONS

1. BOISE STATE
2. MCNEESE STATE
3. YOUNGSTOWN STATE
4. JAMES MADISON
5. MARSHALL
6. MONTANA
7. APPALACHIAN STATE
8. EASTERN KENTUCKY
9. DELAWARE
10. CENTRAL FLORIDA*
11. TROY STATE
12. NORTHERN IOWA
13. IDAHO
14. NEW HAMPSHIRE
15. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE
16. LIBERTY
17. SOUTHERN
18. GEORGIA SOUTHERN
19. NORTHERN ARIZONA
20. WESTERN ILLINOIS

*Eligibility for I-AA title won't be known until August.

TOP TRANSFERS

NAME	Pos.	New school/Former school
Myron Burton	DE	Tennessee State/Auburn
Daymon Carter	TB	Eastern Kentucky/Kentucky
Mike Cherry	QB	Murray State/Arkansas
Conrad Coleman	TB	SE Missouri State/USC
Kevin Foley	QB	Boston University/Maryland
Jeff Heckmick	QB	Western Illinois/Illinois
Kerry Jenkins	OT	Troy State/LSU
Pratt Lyons	DT	Troy State/Utah State
Lawrence McPherson	RB	SW Texas State/Houston
Jason Miletic	QB	Wagner/Cincinnati
Cleon Mitchell	DL	SE Missouri St./Tennessee
Rod Narcisse	S	Stephen F. Austin/Minnesota
Frank Russell	DB	SE Missouri St./Washington State
Milton Shaw	RB	Northern Carolina A&T/Clemson
Jeff Tuss	QB	Montana State/Fresno State
Kerwin Waldroup	DE	Tennessee State/Michigan
Lee Williams	DE	McNeese State/LSU
Mark Zban	QB	Marshall/Ohio State

1994 PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND

Youngstown State 63, Acorn State 20
 Eastern Kentucky 30, Boston University 23
 McNeese State 38, Idaho 21
 Montana 23, Northern Iowa 20
 Marshall 49, Middle Tennessee State 14
 James Madison 45, Troy State 26
 Boise State 24, North Texas 20
 Appalachian State 17, New Hampshire 10

QUARTERFINALS

Youngstown State 18, Eastern Kentucky 15
 Montana 30, McNeese State 28
 Marshall 28, James Madison 21
 Boise State 17, Appalachian State 14

SEMIFINALS

Youngstown State 28, Montana 9
 Boise State 28, Marshall 24

CHAMPIONSHIP

Youngstown State 28, Boise State 14

PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

WR Reggie Barlow	6-0/180	Sr.	Alabama State
WR Dedric Ward	5-9/172	Jr.	Northern Iowa
TE Ed Perry	6-5/225	Jr.	James Madison
T Bob Hall	6-1/285	Sr.	Troy State
T William Pannell	6-4/306	Sr.	Marshall
G James Hand	6-1/270	Sr.	Eastern Kentucky
G Elliott Womack	6-4/320	Sr.	Grambling State
C Wes Greenwell	6-5/290	Sr.	Western Carolina
QB Dave Dickenson	5-11/175	Sr.	Montana
RB Chris Parker	5-11/198	Sr.	Marshall
RB Arnold Mickens	6-0/220	Sr.	Butler
K Jim Richter	6-4/205	Sr.	Furman
KR Todd Cleveland	5-9/170	Soph.	Central Florida



OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

DAVE DICKENSON
QB Montana

DEFENSE

E Jermaine Hopkins	6-0/230	Sr.	Youngstown State
T Chip Miller	6-3/258	Sr.	Appalachian State
E Kavka Pittman	6-5/235	Sr.	McNeese State
LB Leon Jones	6-0/222	Sr.	Youngstown State
LB Vincent Landrum	6-2/235	Sr.	McNeese State
LB Dexter Coakley	5-11/205	Jr.	Appalachian State
LB Tyrone Frazier	6-2/225	Sr.	Villanova
CB Matt Stevens	6-1/208	Sr.	Appalachian State
CB Rashid Gayle	5-8/180	Sr.	Boise State
S Zack Bronson	6-1/200	Jr.	McNeese State
S Brian Clark	6-3/205	Sr.	Holstra
P Scott Holmes	6-3/203	Sr.	Samford



DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

LEON JONES
LB, Youngstown St.

1995 I-AA ALL-AMERICA RANKINGS

QUARTERBACKS	HL/WL	Class	School
1 Dave Dickenson	5-11/175	Sr.	Montana
2 Jeff Lewis	6-3/210	Sr.	Northern Arizona
3 Mark Brungard	6-1/205	Sr.	Youngstown State
4 Tony Hilde	6-0/185	Jr.	Boise State
5 Bob Aylsworth	6-0/180	Sr.	Lehigh
6 Mike Cawley	6-2/200	Sr.	James Madison
7 Brian Brennan	6-5/200	Soph.	Idaho
8 Tom Proudian	6-1/180	Sr.	Iowa
9 Antwan Chiles	6-2/233	Sr.	Liberty
10 Kendrick Nord	6-4/210	Sr.	Grambling State

RUNNING BACKS	HL/WL	Class	School
1 Arnold Mickens	6-0/220	Sr.	Butler
2 Chris Parker	5-11/198	Sr.	Marshall
3 Tim Hall	6-0/215	Sr.	Robert Morris
4 K.C. Adams	5-11/183	Sr.	Boise State
5 Marquette Smith	5-7/195	Sr.	Central Florida
6 Rene Ingoglia	5-10/202	Sr.	Massachusetts
7 Rich Lemon	5-8/161	Jr.	Bucknell
8 J.T. Morris	5-11/220	Sr.	Liberty
9 Michael Hicks	6-1/185	Sr.	South Carolina State
10 Clarence Matthews	5-8/160	Jr.	Northwestern State

WIDE RECEIVERS	HL/WL	Class	School
1 Reggie Barlow	6-0/188	Sr.	Alabama State
2 Dedric Ward	5-9/172	Jr.	Northern Iowa
3 Eric Hopkins	5-10/197	Sr.	Montana State
4 Miles Mack	6-4/200	Sr.	Pennsylvania
5 Bobby Apper	5-11/185	Jr.	Rhode Island
6 Brian Kingerman	5-7/165	Sr.	Lehigh
7 Ryan Ikebe	5-10/178	Jr.	Boise State
8 Todd Cleveland	5-9/170	Soph.	Central Florida
9 Matt Wells	5-7/160	Sr.	Montana
10 Rod Marshall	5-10/175	Sr.	Northern Arizona

TIGHT ENDS	HL/WL	Class	School
1 Ed Perry	6-5/225	Jr.	James Madison
2 Chris Behan	6-1/222	Sr.	Buffalo
3 Matt Harken	6-2/258	Sr.	Northern Iowa
4 Luther Broughton	6-2/240	Jr.	Furman
5 Michael Warren	6-3/275	Sr.	McNeese State

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	HL/WL	Class	School
1 Bob Hall (T)	6-1/285	Sr.	Troy State
2 William Pannell (T)	6-4/306	Sr.	Marshall
3 James Hand (G)	6-1/270	Sr.	Eastern Kentucky
4 Elliott Womack (G)	6-4/320	Sr.	Grambling State
5 Wes Greenwell (C)	6-5/290	Sr.	Western Carolina
6 Jim Mills (T)	6-5/268	Sr.	Idaho
7 Dave Fiora (T)	6-4/275	Sr.	Holstra
8 Alex Toyos (G)	6-1/282	Sr.	Boise State
9 Luke Hake (C)	6-2/275	Sr.	Southwest Missouri State
10 Brian Fisher (T)	6-2/235	Sr.	Furman

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HL/WL	Class	School
1 Jermaine Hopkins (E)	6-0/230	Sr.	Youngstown State
2 Chip Miller (T)	6-3/258	Sr.	Appalachian State
3 Kavka Pittman (E)	6-5/235	Sr.	McNeese State
4 Ryan Phillips (E)	6-4/237	Jr.	Idaho
5 Dan Brandenburg (E)	6-2/248	Sr.	Indiana State
6 Robert Leslie (E)	6-2/225	Sr.	Alabama Birmingham
7 Jeff Gayles (E)	6-2/250	Jr.	Southern Utah
8 Josh Hays (E)	6-2/245	Soph.	Idaho State
9 Domingo Ruiz (T)	5-11/278	Sr.	St. Mary's
10 Pratt Lyons (T)	6-4/250	Jr.	Troy State

LINEBACKERS	HL/WL	Class	School
1 Leon Jones	6-0/222	Sr.	Youngstown State
2 Vincent Landrum	6-2/235	Sr.	McNeese State
3 Dexter Coakley	5-11/205	Jr.	Appalachian State
4 Tyrone Frazier	6-2/225	Sr.	Villanova
5 Michael Holby	6-3/235	Jr.	Tennessee State
6 Tim Carter	6-0/205	Sr.	Eastern Illinois
7 Stacey Ellis	5-11/215	Sr.	Northern Arizona
8 Kenya Rounds	6-0/223	Sr.	Southern
9 David Long	6-0/248	Jr.	Liberty
10 Chris Stevens	5-10/230	Sr.	Illinois State

DEFENSIVE BACKS	HL/WL	Class	School
1 Zack Bronson (FS)	6-1/200	Jr.	McNeese State
2 Brian Clark (FS)	6-3/205	Sr.	Holstra
3 Rashid Gayle (CB)	5-8/180	Sr.	Boise State
4 Doug Popovich (SS)	6-1/185	Sr.	San Diego
5 Frank Spraggins (FS)	5-11/170	Soph.	Western Illinois
6 Matt Stevens (CB)	6-1/208	Sr.	Appalachian State
7 Rayna Stewart (CB)	5-11/185	Sr.	Northern Arizona
8 Marvin Brown (CB)	6-0/180	Sr.	Cal State Sacramento
9 Richard Young (CB)	6-0/195	Sr.	Troy State
10 Buck Phillips (CB)	5-11/180	Sr.	Western Illinois

KICKERS	HL/WL	Class	School
1 Jim Richter	6-4/205	Sr.	Furman
2 Charles Pierce	6-1/170	Jr.	Central Florida
3 Jose Janos	5-8/185	Sr.	McNeese State
4 Todd Kurz	6-4/204	Jr.	Illinois State
5 Adam Diei	6-3/170	Jr.	Nichols State

PUNTERS	HL/WL	Class	School
1 Scott Holmes	6-3/203	Sr.	Samford
2 Kevin O'Leary	5-11/185	Sr.	Northern Arizona
3 Mark Gagliano	6-4/195	Jr.	Southern Illinois
4 Chris Hurst	5-10/190	Sr.	Southwest Missouri State
5 Allen Gunn	6-2/219	Jr.	Appalachian State

KICK RETURNERS	HL/WL	Class	School
1 Todd Cleveland	5-9/170	Soph.	Central Florida
2 Claude Mathis	5-9/180	Soph.	Southwest Texas State
3 Buck Phillips	5-11/180	Sr.	Western Illinois
4 Aaron Fox	5-11/180	Sr.	Canisius
5 Clarence Matthews	5-8/160	Jr.	Northwestern State

Not-so-young Read makes winning old hat for explosive Montana team

BY JIM MEEHAN

It would be unfair to call Montana Coach Don Read a late bloomer. He refuses to divulge his age, so no one knows exactly how late Read's blooming actually is.

"My SID (sports information director) said you would be calling. He said the topic was, 'Oldest coaches in America,'" said Read, laughing heartily.

"I never used to think about it (age), but people remind me. You'll be coaching a kid and you also coached his dad. People are probably saying, 'How old can that guy be?' The players give me a bad time."

But not on the field. Four of Read's nine Grizzly teams have made the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs and two, including the 1994 squad, advanced to the semifinals. The 1993 Grizzlies were Big Sky Conference champions with a 7-0 league record.

Though the state is called Big Sky Country, pre-Read Montana teams hardly dominated Big Sky competition. The Grizzlies won only one league title in the 15 years before Read's arrival in Missoula in 1986, and they were also rans for most of that time frame. Furthermore, the Grizzlies had enjoyed no more than three consecutive winning seasons in the previous 70 years. Under Read's leadership, Montana has posted nine winning records in a row.

So, why is Montana winning all of a sudden? And why is Read?

Like Montana's emergence, Read's success has been a long time in evolution. Throw out his Montana tenure and Read has six winning seasons in 16 years as a college coach.

Read cites many reasons for the Grizzlies' revival, typically underselling himself and the impact of his wide-open, spread passing offense.

"The university wanted it (success) to happen," said Read, who is 72-34 at Montana. "They built a new stadium (Washington-Grizzly in 1986) and that generated enthusiasm. (Former) president Jim Koch made a commitment philosophically and financially. People came forth, during troubled times financially in the state, and gave more."

"The timing was right."

So often in Read's career, the timing was rotten. He had two stints at Portland State (1968-71, 1981-85), enduring attempts by that school to sack the football program permanently. He worked under three athletic directors in three seasons at Oregon (1974-76) and also spent time at Oregon Tech (1977-80).

"I had good experiences at those places and I have no bitterness about what happened," said Read, who looks and acts much younger than a man who has been a coach for 36 years. "But I did feel like if we had been able to secure some things in terms of support and cooperation, we probably could have got it done."

He certainly has gotten it done at Montana. Author of a book on passing,

Read favors an exciting, multiple-receiver offense that helped the Grizzlies score 35 or more points eight times last season. Quarterback Dave Dickenson, the triggerman in the attack, passed for 510 yards in one game and threw for 360-plus yards in four other contests. The I-AA leader in passing efficiency and No. 2 to Alcorn State's Steve McNair in total offense, Dickenson returns for his senior season in 1995.

Read could have had the Montana job when it opened after the 1979 season. Alas, the timing was horrible again. The mother of Read's wife, Lois, was in poor health and the Reads remained at Oregon Tech to stay close by.

Read, whose energy level is limitless, describes his health as excellent. A meticulous note-taker and doodler, Read has 11 folders on his desk, one for each opponent. He stuffs each with the appropriate data, using a 12th folder as a catch-all for random thoughts and ideas. He also keeps his office staff loose, varying the years of his birth so that no one really knows what's right.

In the past, Read had chances to leave Montana for jobs in college or in the pros. But these days, there isn't much of a market for older coaches, even successful ones such as Read. As his resume gains luster, the phone calls from prospective employers dwindle.

That's fine with Read. He said Montana, realistically, is probably his last job and Missoula his likely site to retire. He engages in self-evaluation after each season and vows to continue on, health and drive willing.

"If an opportunity came tomorrow I might look at it, but I can't second-guess what I've done," he said, "and I can say I've had fun with the kids."

Oh, the best guesstimate as to Read's age? Let's say 58. Going on 28. ♦

Jim Meehan covers the Big Sky Conference for the Spokane, Wash., Spokesman-Review.



Don Read has led Montana to a 72-34 record in his nine years as Grizzlies coach.

BIG SKY

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. BOISE STATE
2. MONTANA
3. IDAHO
4. NORTHERN ARIZONA
5. IDAHO STATE
6. MONTANA STATE
7. EASTERN WASHINGTON
8. WEBER STATE

ALL-BIG SKY TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	ERIC HOPKINS, Montana St.	5'10/197	Sr
WR	RYAN IKEBE, Boise State	5'11/182	Jr
TE	JESSE HARDT, E. Washington	6'3/235	Sr
T	JIM MILLS, Idaho	6'5/265	Sr
T	TOM ACKERMAN, E. Washington	6'4/275	Sr
G	MIKE AGEE, Montana	6'4/285	Jr
G	ALEX TOYOS, Boise State	6'2/288	Sr
C	PAUL COFFMAN, Boise State	6'1/251	Sr
QB	DAVE DICKENSON, Montana	5'11/175	Sr
RB	K.C. ADAMS, Boise State	6'0/187	Sr
RB	ALFREDO ANDERSON, Idaho St.	6'10/175	Jr

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
E	RYAN PHILLIPS, Idaho	6'4/241	Jr
T	ALIPATE TAUALUPE, Idaho St.	6'2/280	Sr
E	JOSH HAYS, Idaho State	6'2/245	Soph.
LB	STACEY ELLIS, N. Arizona	5'11/215	Sr
LB	BRIAN SMITH, Boise State	5'10/229	Sr
LB	JASON SHELTON, Idaho	6'0/237	Jr
LB	DION ALEXANDER, E. Washington	6'2/215	Sr
CB	RASHID GAYLE, Boise State	5'8/180	Sr
CB	RAYNA STEWART, N. Arizona	5'11/185	Sr
S	KEITH WALKER-GREEN, Boise St.	5'10/180	Sr
S	BLAINE McELMURRY, Montana	6'1/190	Jr

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
K	GREG ERICKSON, Boise State	5'6/170	Sr
P	KEVIN O'LEARY, N. Arizona	5'11/185	Sr
KR	ERIC HOPKINS, Montana State	5'10/197	Jr

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

DAVE DICKENSON
QB, Montana



DEFENSE:

RYAN PHILLIPS
E, Idaho

BIG SKY TEAM CHARTS

1. BOISE STATE

Coach: Poky Allen (16-10, 2 years, 80-36-2 overall, 9 years)
1994 record: 13-2 (including 3-1 in I-AA playoffs) Big Sky 6-1/1st

Top players: K.C. Adams, RB, Paul Coffman, C, Greg Erickson, K Rashid Gayle, CB, Tony Hilde, QB Ryan Ikebe, WR, DaWuan Miller, CB, Brian Smith, LB, Alex Toyos, OG, Keth Walk-Green, S.

Strengths: The Broncos' offensive line returns intact, which should give Hilde, Adams and Ikebe operating time. Gayle is outstanding. Boise State's recruiting class was regarded as the best in the Big Sky.

Weaknesses: The biggest concerns probably are replacing defensive end Joe O'Brien and linebacker Stefan Reid. New offensive coordinator Dave Stromswold supplants A. Borges, who left for Oregon. Will Boise State's slew of formations, alignments and motion continue?

Outlook: It's more like look out. Runner-up to national champion Youngstown State last year, the Broncos could make another run at the I-AA title—perhaps even win it—if they can handle conference road games against Idaho and Montana.

Schedule: at Utah State, Sept. 9; Sam Houston State, Sept. 16; at Montana, Sept. 23; Northwestern State, Sept. 30; Northern Arizona, Oct. 7; at Weber State, Oct. 14; Idaho State, Oct. 21; Portland State, Oct. 28; Eastern Washington, Nov. 4; Montana State, Nov. 11; at Idaho, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1994

Nickname: Broncos. **Site:** Boise, Idaho.

2. MONTANA

Coach: Don Read (72-34, 9 years, 141-125 overall, 25 years)

1994 record: 11-3 (including 2-1 in I-AA playoffs) Big Sky 5-2/2nd

Top players: Mike Ages, G, Dave Dickenson, QB, Mike Erhardt, WR, David Kempfert, C, Yohanes Manzanarez, DE, Blaine McElmurry, FS, Eric Simonson, OT, Brian Toone, DT, Matt Wells, WR/P, Jeff Zeltick, G.

Strengths: Dickenson, a senior, seemingly wills the Grizzlies to victories. He'll have numerous targets, including returnees Erhardt and Wells (only 5-foot-7) and transfers Joe Douglass (Oregon State), Maurice White (5-9, New Mexico) and Trevor Woods (5-7, Ohio University). Colorado transfer Mike Lorentz should see time at defensive end.

Weaknesses: The defense returns just three starters, none at linebacker. Big players must produce in starting roles.

Outlook: Point parades figure to be the rule, which won't harm Dickenson's Payton Trophy candidacy. Circle September 23 on the calendar with an early Big Sky showdown matching Boise State against Montana in Missoula.

Schedule: Eastern New Mexico, Sept. 2; at Washington State, Sept. 9; Minnesota-Duluth, Sept. 16; Boise State, Sept. 23; UC Davis, Sept. 30; Weber State, Oct. 7; at Northern Arizona, Oct. 14; at Idaho, Oct. 21; Idaho State, Nov. 4; at Eastern Washington, Nov. 11; at Montana State, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1994.

Nickname: Grizzlies. **Site:** Missoula, Mont.

3. IDAHO

Coach: Chris Tormey (1st year)

1994 record: 9-3 (including 0-1 in I-AA playoffs) Big Sky 5-2/2nd

Top players: Brian Brennan, QB, Eric Hisaw, QB, Eric Johnson, C, Dwight McKinzie, WR, Jim Mills, OT, Ryan Phillips, DE, Jason Shelt, LB, Joel Thomas, RB, Montrell Williams, SS, Ryan Wolverton, PK.

Strengths: The defense, anchored by Shelt (who missed most of last season with a knee injury) and ends Phillips and Barry Mitchell, is improving.

Weaknesses: The Vandals are desperately short on receivers, which could stymie their spread passing game. Idaho's secondary must deliver if the defense is to go from good to very good.

Outlook: Promising Tormey's first major decision will be at quarterback, where senior Hisaw and sophomore Brennan (who has great potential) split time last year after Hisaw injured his knee. Robert Scott, a redshirt freshman, may end up in the secondary if he doesn't win the quarterback job.

Schedule: at Oregon State, Sept. 2; Sonoma State, Sept. 16; at Idaho State, Sept. 30; at Montana State, Oct. 7; Eastern Washington, Oct. 14; Montana, Oct. 21; at Weber

State, Oct. 28; at Northern Arizona, Nov. 4; at Northern Iowa, Nov. 11; Boise State, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1994

Nickname: Vandals. **Site:** Moscow, Idaho.

4. NORTHERN ARIZONA

Coach: Steve Axman (26-29, 5 years)

1994 record: 7-4, Big Sky 4-3/4th.

Top players: Alex Calderwood, QB, Stacey Ellis, LB, Dan Finn, OL, Kevin Kolkman, DE, Jeff Lewis, QB, Ryan Lingenfelder, OL, Rod Marshall, WR, Kevin O'Leary, P, Ben Petrucci, DT, Jesus Reyes, WR, Ryana Stewart, CB.

Strengths: Lewis, a four-year starter, has fine receivers in Marshall (a medical redshirt) and Reyes. Stewart is impressing pro scouts with his 4.4 speed and coverage ability.

Weaknesses: The kicking game, although freshman Jay Burns should improve Northern Arizona's 5-of-20 efficiency in field-goal attempts. The defense must replace two stand-out safeties, Alex Marcolin and Jeff Bergman.

Outlook: Forever on the doorstep of the Big Sky's upper echelon, the Lumberjacks have a chance if they follow their leader (Lewis). If the defense can limit opponents to 25 points or fewer, there's even more hope.

Schedule: at New Mexico, Sept. 2; Cal State Sacramento, Sept. 9; Cal State Northridge, Sept. 23; Montana State, Sept. 30; at Boise State, Oct. 7; Montana, Oct. 14; at Eastern Washington, Oct. 21; at Idaho State, Oct. 28; Idaho, Nov. 4; at Weber State, Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Lumberjacks. **Site:** Flagstaff, Ariz.

5. IDAHO STATE

Coach: Brian McNeely (11-22, 3 years)

1994 record: 6-5, Big Sky 4-3/4th.

Top players: Alfredo Anderson, TB, Steve Burch, OL, Mark Echohawk, FS, Brian Geiz, LB, Josh Hays, DE, Ika Johnson, LB, Ahmad Lewis, DE, Alipate Tauakape, DT, Thomas Washington, TB/P, Robb Wetia, QB.

Strengths: Wetia got his feet wet as a true freshman last year. His quality play allowed the speedy Anderson to play in the backfield or at the slot. Sophomore Hays, a walk-on, had an astounding 18.5 sacks last season.

Weaknesses: Will Wetia have any quality receivers following the departure of Rommie Wheeler and Sam Carter? Will Wetia have time to throw, working behind a line stocked with junior-college transfers?

Outlook: If transfers can cement the offensive and defensive lines, there's considerable hope. A 4-4-3 defensive set, which utilizes speedy 215-pound linebackers in coverage, should be strong.

Schedule: at Cal Poly-SLO, Sept. 2; Cal State Northridge, Sept. 16; Southern Utah, Sept. 23; Idaho, Sept. 30; at Eastern Washington, Oct. 7; Montana State, Oct. 14; at Boise State, Oct. 21; Northern Arizona, Oct. 28; at Montana, Nov. 4; at North Texas, Nov. 11; Weber State, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1983.

Nickname: Bengals. **Site:** Pocatello, Idaho.

6. MONTANA STATE

Coach: Cliff Hyself (14-19, 3 years)

1994 record: 3-8, Big Sky 0-7/8th

Top players: Terrence Crump, TB, Devian Geddes, DE, Geoff Groshelle, K, Jason Hicks, DE, Eric Hopkins, WR, Chad Mayer, TE, J.C. Murray, OL, T.T. Ryan, FB, Jeff Tuss, QB, Jason Westbrook, OL.

Strengths: Fresno State transfer Tuss, 25 years old, could be a star at quarterback. Hopkins is a threat at receiver, on reverses and as a luck returner.

Weaknesses: The Bobcats' running game wilted last season and has no proven talent after the loss of Fred Moore and Clint Morton. Still, the ground attack may improve since the fine figures to be better in 1995.

Outlook: Tuss and Hopkins should give Montana State some point production. Can the defense, which is undersized on the line and filled with junior-college players in the secondary, hold up its end of the bargain?

Schedule: at Colorado State, Sept. 2; Central Washington, Sept. 9; at Cal Poly-SLO, Sept. 16; Southwest Texas State, Sept. 23; at Northern Arizona, Sept. 30; Idaho, Oct. 7; at Idaho State, Oct. 14; Weber State, Oct. 21; Eastern Washington, Oct. 28; at Boise State, Nov. 11; Montana, Nov. 18.



Eastern Washington linebacker Dion Alexander.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Bobcats. **Site:** Bozeman, Mont.

7. EASTERN WASHINGTON

Coach: Mike Kramer (4-7, 1 year)

1994 record: 4-7, Big Sky 2-5/6th.

Top players: Tom Ackerman, OT, Dion Alexander, LB, Doug Dorton, QB, Justin Guillory, LB, Jesse Hardt, TE, Jerrold Jackson, WR, David Lewis, RB, Steve Mattson, TE, Ryan Moore, CB, Chris Scott, DL.

Strengths: The Eagles have a capable offensive line, good running backs and a savvy tight end in Hardt.

Weaknesses: The defensive front graduated and the secondary will be reconstructed around junior-college transfers. The quarterback position will lack experience, whether it's manned by redshirt freshman Josh Lee or sophomore Brian Sherick. The kicking game was abysmal last year.

Outlook: Facing potent Big Sky offenses with a retooled line and secondary doesn't bode well. The Eagles may be a year away.

Schedule: at Southwest Texas State, Sept. 7; Cal State Sacramento, Sept. 16; Portland State, Sept. 23; at Weber State, Sept. 30; Idaho State, Oct. 7; at Idaho, Oct. 14; Northern Arizona, Oct. 21; at Montana State, Oct. 28; at Boise State, Nov. 4; Montana, Nov. 11; at Cal Poly-SLO, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1992

Nickname: Eagles. **Site:** Cheney, Wash.

8. WEBER STATE

Coach: Dave Arsanian (34-33, 6 years)

1994 record: 5-6, Big Sky 2-5/6th

Top players: Junior Baker, SS, Jacob Belmont, LB, Poky Eckford, WR, Ian Franklin, CB, Jason Jensen, DE, Bryan Martin, QB, Mike Minnoch, K, Larry Rogers, RB, Kyle Stephens, OT, Norvel Young, WR.

Strengths: The Wildcats have some offensive weapons in Martin, Eckford and running backs Rogers and Reggie Carter. Like many of its Big Sky brethren, Weber State recruited junior-college offensive linemen to plug holes.

Weaknesses: Neither the offense nor the defense is stellar. Opposing passers could turn the secondary into a firing range.

Outlook: Martin's arm will have a direct bearing on the amount he uses his leg. He's the quarterback and punter. A player to watch: Steve Bodnar, a freshman running back from powerhouse Mater Dei High in southern California—if he is academically eligible.

Schedule: at Western Michigan, Sept. 2; at Central Michigan, Sept. 9; St. Mary's, Sept. 16; Cal Poly-SLO, Sept. 23; Eastern Washington, Sept. 30; at Montana, Oct. 7; Boise State, Oct. 14; at Montana State, Oct. 21; Idaho, Oct. 28; Northern Arizona, Nov. 11; at Idaho State, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1991

Nickname: Wildcats. **Site:** Ogden, Utah

Text by Jim Moehan.

Ex-quarterback excels at life on the other side for Sycamores

By CHRIS PRUETT

You would think Indiana State star Dan Brandenburg would pick someone other than quarterbacks to harass. After all, he knows what it's like to be sacked.

But the fact that Brandenburg used to be the rushee and not the rusher hasn't stopped him from becoming one of the premier defensive linemen in Division I-AA.

At Rensselaer (Ind.) Central High, Brandenburg usually played offense. He finished his prep career as a quarterback, rushing for 1,016 yards and 14 touchdowns as a senior. But he knew his future was on the other side of the ball.

"That's one of the first things (Indiana State coaches) said—'You're not going to be a quarterback.' So I knew that coming in (to college)," said Brandenburg, whose father played at Indiana State and still holds the school single-game scoring record with four touchdowns in a 1961 contest.

But he didn't know how tough the switch to defense would be.

"I had a little size on me, but it was still pretty difficult," Brandenburg said. "I played some defense when I was younger, but not a lot."

"I remember lining up for a tackle drill (as a freshman) and I didn't know what I was doing. I think (the coaching staff) thought I was a coward or something."

Brandenburg has been anything but cowardly since arriving on campus. After red-shirting in 1991 and making one sack in 1992, Brandenburg blossomed in 1993, registering a school-record 13 sacks and earning first-team All-Gateway honors. Brandenburg had eight sacks last season and enters his senior season as the Sycamores' career leader with 21.

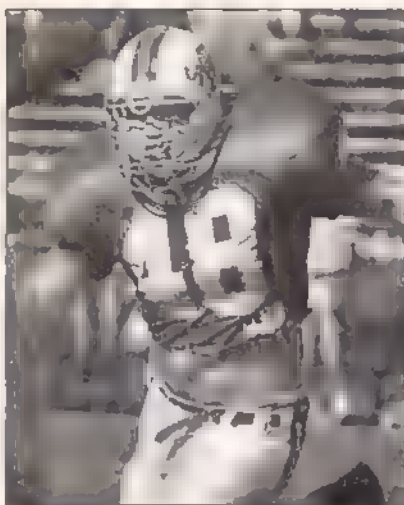
"It's sort of a special feeling, but a lot of the time I'm just doing my job and people expect me to get there," Brandenburg said of bagging quarterbacks.

Brandenburg's speed (he covers 40 yards in 4.52 seconds despite being 6-foot-2 and 248 pounds) and athletic ability are the components that have allowed him to successfully switch from high school offensive star to college defensive terror.

He was the leading scorer on his high school basketball team as a senior, when he led the team to the final eight of the state tournament. Brandenburg also high-jumped 6-9 in high school.

"The first thing you've got in dealing with Dan Brandenburg is . . . a kid with a measurable amount of athletic skills that are way above normal for that position," said Dennis Raetz, entering his 16th season as Indiana State coach. "Then you add on speed. . . . He's one of the five or six fastest football players we have, regardless of position."

"From there, it's the realm of importance of football to him and being able to make the mental adjustment from being a quarterback to playing a down lineman."



Senior defensive end Dan Brandenburg is Indiana State's all-time sacks leader with 21.

Over time, Brandenburg has adapted to the switch.

"At first, I was kind of tentative, but then I just got comfortable with it until it came naturally," he said. "I just try to go out and play and not let things bother me. Of course, you have to have a mind-set. I mean, you've got to get ready to play because you've got a guy across from you who wants to knock the crap out of you."

Opponents don't always get that chance because of Brandenburg's quickness.

"What I remember about him is that he plays so hard and all out all the time. He's always around the football," said Youngstown State assistant John Klarik, whose team has played the Sycamores each of the past three seasons and won three of the past four I-AA national titles. "And he enjoys playing so much."

"Sometimes we have a back help out, and that doesn't always do the job because of his speed. We just have to be aware of him all the time."

Opponents kept track of Brandenburg in 1994, when the Sycamores finished 5-6 overall and tied for fifth in the Gateway with a 2-4 mark, but that didn't stop him from earning second-team I-AA All-America honors from The Associated Press.

"I didn't have as many sacks because teams would (have the quarterback take a) three-step drop and they'd double-team me or slide the line on me," said Brandenburg, who was a first-team All-Gateway choice in '94. "I'd try to go inside and there'd be four guys on me. It was tough because I was thinking, 'What's going on here? I'm faster and stronger than I was last year and I'm not getting it done.'"

"It took me awhile to realize that, hey, it's going to be open for everyone else, so just do what you're doing and you've done your job."

So far, that's worked just fine. ♦

Chris Pruett covers Indiana State for the Terre Haute (Ind.) Tribune-Star.

GATEWAY

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. NORTHERN IOWA
2. WESTERN ILLINOIS
3. SW MISSOURI STATE
4. ILLINOIS STATE
5. EASTERN ILLINOIS
6. INDIANA STATE
7. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

ALL-GATEWAY TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	DEDRIC WARD Northern Iowa	5-9/172	Jr
WR	GUNNARD TWYNER W. Illinois	5-11/175	Sr
TE	MATT HARKEN Northern Iowa	6-6/259	Sr
T	ANDY ZIEBARTH Illinois State	6-2/267	Jr
T	DAN BOWER Northern Iowa	6-4/248	Sr
G	CHARLIE ROCHE E. Illinois	8-3/260	Sr
G	ADAM LOVE Western Illinois	6-5/293	Sr
C	LUKE HAKE SW Missouri State	6-2/275	Sr
QB	PETE MAJICH Eastern Illinois	5-10/185	Sr
RB	WILLIE HIGH Eastern Illinois	6-1/225	Sr
RB	DAVID WRIGHT Indiana State	5-7/170	Sr

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
E	DAN BRANDENBURG Indiana St.	6-2/248	Sr
T	BRIAN MORETZ Northern Iowa	6-0/285	Sr
E	MARK AFOA Western Illinois	6-5/255	Sr
LB	TIM CARVER Eastern Illinois	6-0/205	Sr
LB	DEAJA FOWLER SW Missouri State	5-11/215	Sr
LB	CHRIS STEVENS Illinois State	5-10/230	Sr
LB	KEVIN HAMMOND N. Iowa	6-2/215	Sr
CB	WILL E PARKS SW Missouri State	5-10/168	Sr
CB	BUCK PHILLIPS W. Illinois	5-11/160	Sr
S	DUANE BUTLER Illinois State	6-2/195	Sr
S	FRANK SPRAGGINS W. Illinois	5-11/170	Soph.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
K	TODD KURZ Illinois State	6-4/204	Jr
P	MARK GAGLIANO S. Illinois	6-4/195	Jr
KR	BUCK PHILLIPS W. Illinois	5-11/180	Sr

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

DEDRIC WARD
WR Northern Iowa



DEFENSE:

TIM CARVER
LB Eastern Illinois

GATEWAY TEAM CHARTS

1. NORTHERN IOWA

Coach: Terry Allen (55-19, 6 years)
1994 record: 8-4 (including 0-1 in I-AA playoffs). Gateway 6-0-1st.
Top players: Dan Bower, OT, Cory Burke, DE, Kevin Hammond, LB, Matt Harken, TE, Jacob Kothe, WR, Brian Moretz, NT, Marvin Sims, RB, Jeff Stovall, RB, Matt Waller, K, Dedric Ward, WR.
Strengths: Northern Iowa is bolstered by 10 returning starters on offense. Five of the top six rushers are back, including the hard-nosed Stovall. Ward made 60 catches for 1,083 yards in 1994. Harken is a huge target (6 foot 6, 259 pounds) at tight end.
Weaknesses: The entire secondary must be replaced, and just one starting linebacker returns. That one linebacker isn't Andre Allen, the Gateway Defensive Player of the Year. A punter and quarterback must emerge quickly because the Panthers will be tested by a difficult early-season schedule.
Outlook: The offense possesses big-play ability, but Coach Terry Allen might emphasize ball-control to take pressure off the young defense. After sharing the 1990 title, Northern Iowa has won the past four league crowns outright. The Panthers should add to that in '95.
Schedule: at Stephen F. Austin State, Sept. 2; at Iowa, Sept. 9; Lock Haven (Pa.), Sept. 16; at Western Illinois, Sept. 30; Eastern Illinois, Oct. 7; Indiana State, Oct. 14; Southern Illinois, Oct. 21; at Southwest Missouri State, Oct. 28; at Illinois State Nov. 4; Idaho, Nov. 11; Winona (Minn.) State, Nov. 18.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1994.
Nickname: Panthers. **Site:** Cedar Falls, Iowa.

2. WESTERN ILLINOIS

Coach: Randy Ball (29-26-1, 5 years)
1994 record: 8-3. Gateway 4-2/T2nd.
Top players: Mark Aloa, DE, Shawn Barnes, G, Isaac Cleveland, LB, Ephron Crump, HB, Jeff Heckinski, QB (transfer from Illinois), Keith Jones, K, Rob Lazee, OT, Adam Love, G, OT, Buck Phillips, CB, KR, Frank Spraggins, FS, Wayne Stewart, DT, Gunnard Twyner, FL.
Strengths: It starts with a defense that features two stars in the secondary: Spraggins, who had a school-record seven interceptions in '94, and Phillips, the conference's top newcomer who doubles as an excellent return man. The defensive line also will be stout. Twyner could be the league's top receiver.
Weaknesses: Conference Offensive Player of the Year Rob St. Saver will be hard to replace at quarterback, but Illinois transfer Heckinski could fill the bill. The offensive line is a concern and some running backs must emerge. In addition, a leader needs to step forward at linebacker.
Outlook: The Leathernecks should be able to overcome any perceived shortcomings and make a run for the Gateway title after finishing tied for second in each of the past four seasons.
Schedule: Iowa Wesleyan, Sept. 2; at Ball State, Sept. 9; Delaware State, Sept. 16; at Indiana State, Sept. 23; Northern Iowa, Sept. 30; at Illinois State, Oct. 14; Southwest Missouri State, Oct. 21; Southern Illinois, Oct. 28; at Eastern Illinois, Nov. 4; at Jacksonville State, Nov. 11; at Murray State, Nov. 18.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1991.
Nickname: Leathernecks. **Site:** Macomb, Ill.

3. SW MISSOURI STATE

Coach: Del Miller (1st year)
1994 record: 4-7. Gateway 2-4/T5th.
Top players: Ryan Bravo, G, Dee Debro, TB, DeLaur Fowler, LB, Robbie Fresquez, WR, Luke Hake, C, Matt Hoseney, TB, Chris Hurst, P, Brad Kubik, OT, Kevin Lightburn, LB, Willie Parks, CB, Tom Procter, DE.
Strengths: The depth and experience is good, as eight starters on both offense and defense return. Hake will block for the strong tailback tandem of Debro and Hoseney. Fowler is a stud (140 tackles last season) and Parks is a three-year starter at cornerback. The punting and kicking should be solid.
Weaknesses: The offense must adjust from what was primarily an option attack to a pro-style set that will feature passing. The defense also will need time to learn the new staff's system.



Northern Iowa running back Jeff Stovall.

Outlook: The Bears dipped below .500 last season for the first time since 1987. Expect Southwest Missouri to rebound behind Miller, a former Kansas State assistant, and possibly displace Northern Iowa at the top.
Schedule: McNeese State, Sept. 2; Northeast Missouri State, Sept. 9; at Oklahoma State, Sept. 16; at Eastern Illinois, Sept. 23; Illinois State, Sept. 30; Indiana State, Oct. 7; at Southern Illinois, Oct. 14; at Western Illinois, Oct. 21; Northern Iowa, Oct. 28; at Southeast Missouri State, Nov. 11; Jacksonville State, Nov. 18.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1990.
Nickname: Bears. **Site:** Springfield, Mo.

4. ILLINOIS STATE

Coach: Jim Heacock (32-43-2, 7 years)
1994 record: 5-5-1. Gateway 3-3-4th.
Top players: Tim Achterberg, TE, Duane Butler, FS, Keith Goodnight, RB, Will Hill, RB, Eric Johnson, DT, Todd Kurz, P/K, Deon McDaniel, CB, KR, Kyle Robinson, WR, Willie Ross, OT, Chris Stevens, LB, Andy Ziebarth, OT.
Strengths: Eight offensive and seven defensive starters return. The offensive line is deep, led by Ziebarth. The Redbirds' top two rushers, Hill and Goodnight, are back. Robinson is a pass-catching threat. Butler paces a talented secondary.
Weaknesses: A quarterback must emerge to complement an experienced offense. The top candidates are junior Lester Anderson and junior-college transfer Bill Hagman. The defensive line is suspect, and Illinois State lacks depth at wide receiver and linebacker.
Outlook: Increased team speed and a strong reserve of talent—provided by redshirts and transfers—should mean an upper-division finish for Illinois State in its 100th season of football. But the Redbirds' status as a contender hinges on the play of their quarterback.
Schedule: Washburn (Kan.), Sept. 2; at Ohio U., Sept. 9; Buffalo, Sept. 16; Hofstra, Sept. 23; at Southwest Missouri State, Sept. 30; at Southern Illinois, Oct. 7; Western Illinois, Oct. 14; at Eastern Illinois, Oct. 28; Northern Iowa, Nov. 4; Indiana State, Nov. 11; at Youngstown State, Nov. 18.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.
Nickname: Redbirds. **Site:** Normal, Ill.

5. EASTERN ILLINOIS

Coach: Bob Spoo (42-47-1, 9 years)
1994 record: 6-5. Gateway 4-2/T2nd.
Top players: Chris Anderson, C, Chris Brown, SS, Tim Carver, LB, James Dorsey, FS, Chris Hicks, RB, Willie High, TB, Steve Largent, K/P, Pete Mauch, QB, Curtis Price, DT, Charlie Roche, G, Matt Sweeney, LB.
Strengths: High has posted consecutive 1,000-yard rush-

ing seasons. Mauch, a running and passing threat, is an experienced quarterback. The hard-hitting Carver holds school records for tackles in a game (31), season (179) and career (427).
Weaknesses: Just four starters, including one from the secondary, return on defense. Both lines lack depth. The receiving corps must be rebuilt.
Outlook: The Panthers finished strong, winning their final four games en route to posting the school's first winning record since 1989. Eastern Illinois' schedule is set up for a quick start, but don't expect another winning campaign.
Schedule: Austin Peay, Aug. 31; Southeast Missouri State, Sept. 9; UT Martin, Sept. 16; Southwest Missouri State, Sept. 23; Central State (Ohio), Sept. 30; at Northern Iowa, Oct. 7; at Western Kentucky, Oct. 14; Illinois State, Oct. 28; Western Illinois, Nov. 4; at Southern Illinois, Nov. 11; at Indiana State, Nov. 18.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1989.
Nickname: Panthers. **Site:** Charleston, Ill.

6. INDIANA STATE

Coach: Dennis Raetz (77-89-1, 15 years)
1994 record: 5-6. Gateway 2-4/T5th.
Top players: Dan Brandenburg, DE, Larry Brown, WR, Kevin Cox, QB, Larry Gauer, TE, Robert High, FS, Dre Knox, CB, Chris Libaire, LB, Richard Moss, LB, Jason Potter, TB, Larry Scally, CB, David Wright, TB.
Strengths: Six starters return to a unit that led the conference in total (292.7 yards per game) and scoring defense (15.8 points per game). Brandenburg is a fierce pass rusher. Seven starters return on offense, including the 1-2 tailback punch of Wright and Potter (the son of former Notre Dame All-America running back Vagas Ferguson). The special teams and receivers are good.
Weaknesses: Junior Kevin Cox and redshirt freshman Courtland Tubbs are battling for quarterback duties. Each lacks experience. The offensive line lacks depth.
Outlook: The Sycamores need to develop a passing game to complement a potent ground attack. Until a passer emerges, the defense should keep Indiana State in most games, but it won't be enough to make the Sycamores a contender.
Schedule: Mars Hill (N.C.), Sept. 2; at Mississippi, Sept. 9; Greenville (W.Va.) State, Sept. 16; Western Illinois, Sept. 23; Southern Illinois, Sept. 30; at Southwest Missouri State, Oct. 7; at Northern Iowa, Oct. 14; Eastern Illinois, Oct. 21; at Youngstown State, Oct. 28; Western Kentucky, Nov. 4; at Illinois State, Nov. 11.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1984.
Nickname: Sycamores. **Site:** Terre Haute, Ind.

7. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Coach: Shawn Watson (1-10, 1 year)
1994 record: 1-10. Gateway 0-6/7th.
Top players: Tommy Anderson, DB, Patrick Baldwin, NG, Mark Gagliano, P, Ryan Hallahan, LB, Danell Hendricks, DB, Damon Jones, TE, Cedric Kenner, DB, Hassan McCullough, DB, Tony Seman, LB, Brian Tranchitella, LB, Kali Whiting, WR.
Strengths: The linebackers and defensive backs, paced by Hendricks, bolster what should be a stout defense. The offensive line, which returns three starters, will open holes if the offense sputters. Gagliano will bail it out with his booming leg. Jones is a massive tight end (6-6, 270) who can block and catch.
Weaknesses: The offense is searching for a quarterback. The Salukis also lack experience at running back and wide receiver. Southern Illinois, a combined 7-26 the past three seasons, must learn how to win.
Outlook: The Salukis still are rebuilding and relying on too many young players. That's why they're picked to finish last. But don't be surprised if Southern Illinois finishes .500 thanks to its defense.
Schedule: at Southeast Missouri State, Aug. 31; Murray State, Sept. 9; at Arkansas State, Sept. 16; Nichols State, Sept. 23; at Indiana State, Sept. 30; Illinois State, Oct. 7; Southwest Missouri State, Oct. 14; at Northern Iowa, Oct. 21; at Western Illinois, Oct. 28; Western Kentucky, Nov. 4; Eastern Illinois, Nov. 11.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1983.
Nickname: Salukis. **Site:** Carbondale, Ill.

Text by Scott Heiberger, of the Peoria (Ill.) Journal-Star.

Penn star doesn't have miles to go to become a productive receiver

By FRANK BENSON

It has been a long time since Pennsylvania has lost a football game. Try November 7, 1992. For Penn wide receiver Miles Macik, that's what makes college football great.

"We've won 21 straight, and I've been part of 19 of them," said Macik, a 6-foot-4, 200-pound senior from Marlboro, N.J. "I'm very proud of that."

Penn has run the table in the Ivy League the past two seasons, the first team to accomplish that feat in the often-unpredictable Ancient Eight. And if the Quakers do so again in 1995, Macik will play a significant role.

"Usually it's possible to shut down a wide receiver by giving him considerable attention on coverage," Penn Coach Al Bagnoli said. "But Miles just keeps on making the big play."

Macik caught 60 passes for 708 yards last season, eight for touchdowns. That was down from the 72 receptions he had as a sophomore in 1993, but Macik is about more than just numbers.

"He makes the big catch," Bagnoli said. "In a league with a lot of 5-8 and 5-9 cornerbacks, Miles is big and physical and no one can stop him. And he cuts across the middle."

Ah, cutting across the middle. Macik remembers venturing into that area to catch a pass in a game against Fordham two years ago, but that's all he remembers.

"It was like I was hit by a truck," he said. "I broke a rib. I couldn't catch my breath. I was hurting a lot."

But he held on for a touchdown. And the next week against Colgate, he caught another touchdown pass. Cutting across the middle.

"I'm not fast," Macik admits, "but I'm not afraid of a little contact."

His biggest asset is his hands.

"I feel if the ball is anywhere near me, I should catch it," he said.

Macik grew up playing baseball and basketball and thought he'd eventually play basketball in college. After all, he lettered four years in basketball at Marlboro High. College recruiters thought otherwise.

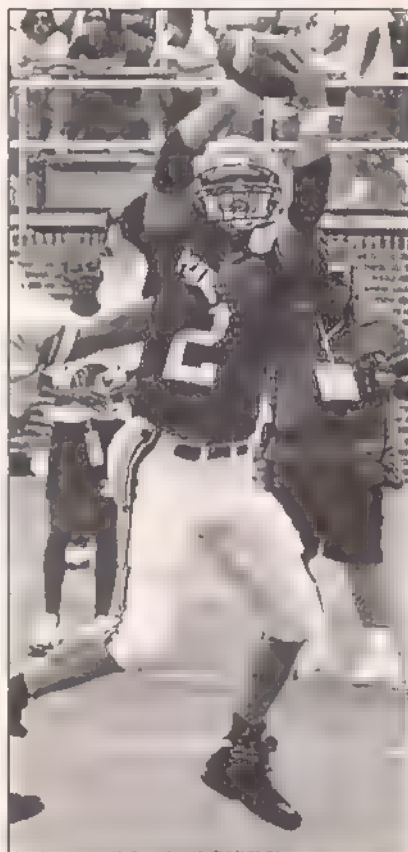
"The only Division I schools that showed any interest in me wanted me for football, not basketball," he said.

"He went to a high school that didn't throw the ball much," Bagnoli said. "So he was a bit of a gamble. And he had deceptive speed but not the great breakaway thrust."

Macik says he "didn't have the proper technique" for running pass routes because he never ran track. But he "always loved just catching passes. I could watch Jerry Rice for hours."

Like many Ivy League players, Macik feels most fans don't know how good the league really is.

"I know the reputation here is that what we're playing isn't quality football, but once people actually see us they like us," he said. "Last year, ESPN2 came to one of our games



Penn's Miles Macik has made 132 catches in the past two seasons combined.

and *Sports Illustrated* has been here. I just wish we could compete in the playoffs."

Ivy League rules forbid football teams from postseason play, a rule Bagnoli hopes will be amended soon.

"I think it will be changed; it has to be," said Bagnoli, whose three-year record at Penn is 26-3. "Every other sport is allowed to compete against the best—why not football?"

Another Ivy League no-no of years past—spring practice—was overturned two years ago in a vote of Ivy Group school presidents.

"We don't offer athletic scholarships, so it would probably be impossible for one of us to go all the way and win a national title," Columbia Coach Ray Tellier said. "But Penn deserved a chance to try."

Macik's other dream is one he has a bit more control over: the NFL.

"If pro football happens, it happens," he said. "I never really expected to get a chance, but a few scouts have been calling."

Macik, who expects to move on to graduate school next year (he is majoring in international relations), admits he may not be ready to give up football at the end of this season.

"I came to the sport late; maybe that's why it's not out of my system yet," he said. "I don't want to give it up."

Especially since his teams win so often. ♦

Frank Benson covers the Ivy League for the Ithaca (N.Y.) Journal.

IVY LEAGUE

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. PENNSYLVANIA
2. COLUMBIA
3. BROWN
4. CORNELL
5. PRINCETON
6. HARVARD
7. YALE
8. DARTMOUTH

ALL-IVY TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	MILES MACIK Penn	6-4/200	Sr
WR	MIKE HALL GAN Harvard	5-11/200	Sr
TE	DAVE PRYBYLA Yale	6-4/220	Sr
T	BRIAN LARSEN Dartmouth	6-6/260	Jr
T	MICHAEL BENDER Yale	6-1/261	Sr
G	CARTER WESTFALL Princeton	6-4/285	Sr
G	CRAIG VALENTINE Columbia	6-2/285	Sr
C	GREG BLOEDORN Cornell	6-7/279	Sr
QB	VIN FERRARA Harvard	6-2/205	Sr
RB	CHAD LEVITT Cornell	6-2/226	Jr
RB	EION HU Harvard	5-10/195	Jr

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
E	DARRELL OLIVERA Princeton	6-5/245	Sr
T	ERIC KECK Columbia	6-4/285	Sr
T	SETH PAYNE Cornell	6-4/254	Jr
E	TONY QJARNACCIO Brown	6-3/260	Sr
LB	DAVE PATTERSON Princeton	6-0/265	Sr
LB	RORY WILFORK Columbia	6-2/215	Jr
LB	JUSTIN FRANTZ Harvard	6-2/215	Sr
CB	KEVIN ALLEN Penn	5-10/177	Sr
CB	DOUG KNOPP Cornell	5-10/182	Sr
S	RALPH HUDSON Columbia	5-9/170	Sr
S	GREG PARKER Brown	5-10/165	Jr

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
K	JOE ALDRICH Columbia	5-11/180	Sr
P	TIM GRIFFIN Harvard	6-1/215	Sr
KR	ROB MASELLA Yale	6-0/175	Jr

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

CHAD LEVITT
RB, Cornell



DEFENSE:

RORY WILFORK
LB, Columbia

IVY LEAGUE TEAM CHARTS

1. PENNSYLVANIA

Coach: Al Bagnoli (26-3, 3 years; 112-22 overall, 13 years)
1994 record: 9-0, Ivy 7-0/1st.

Top players: Kevin Allen, DB; Mark DeRosa, QB; Scott Freeman, OL; Bill Glasscott, OL; Rick Knox, OL; Dana Lyons, FS; Mies Mack, WR; Tom McGarity, DL; Nick Morris, SS; Matt Tonelli, TE.

Strengths: Penn returns 10 starters, including the league's top passing combo—DeRosa and Mack. Three of those starters are on the offensive line. Allen is one of the league's best defensive backs, and three returning defenders were all-league picks.

Weaknesses: All the linebackers from last year's championship team are gone, including league player of the year Pat Goodwillie. Even Bagnoli admits the Quakers will have to rebuild more than they have in the past. Terrance Stokes, who averaged 117 rushing yards in 1994, will be hard to replace.

Outlook: No team in recent Ivy League history has had a run like the Quakers, who are riding a 21-game winning streak, the longest current streak in college football and a Division I-AA record. They probably won't dominate as they have in the past, but the Quakers should win the league again.

Schedule: Dartmouth, Sept. 16; at Lafayette, Sept. 23; Bucknell, Sept. 30; at Columbia, Oct. 7; at William & Mary, Oct. 14; Brown, Oct. 21; at Yale, Oct. 28; Princeton, Nov. 4; at Harvard, Nov. 11; Cornell, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: Ivy League does not compete in playoffs.

Nickname: Quakers. **Site:** Philadelphia.

2. COLUMBIA

Coach: Ray Teller (13-46-1, 6 years; 34-72-2 overall, 11 years)

1994 record: 5-4-1, Ivy 3-4/T4th

Top players: Joe Aldrich, K; Mike Cavanaugh, QB; Joe Harper, FB; Ralph Hudson, S; Anthony Jackson, RB; Jim Jim Jones, WR; Eric Keck, DT; Jake Lili, LB; Randy Murr, OT; Mike Quinn, RB; Craig Valentine, G; Rory Wilfork, LB.

Strengths: The Lions have more returning starters than any team in the league. Cavanaugh, a part-time starter last year, is the top running quarterback in the league. Jones is a speedy receiver, and Quinn and Jackson are good running backs. Wilfork might be the league's best linebacker and Hudson might be the best defensive back. Aldrich set school records for extra points (25) and total points kicking (58) last year.

Weaknesses: This is, after all, Columbia. Before last season, the school went 23 years without a winning record. The loss of all-league tight end Brian Bassett to graduation is a big one, and Marcus Wiley probably the league's best defensive lineman, is taking a year off for personal reasons.

Outlook: There's a lot of talent here and Teller says he'd like to build a new tradition at Columbia. The Lions never have been a physical team, but that is changing. Columbia could pull off another surprise.

Schedule: at Harvard, Sept. 16; St. Mary's, Sept. 23; at Lafayette, Sept. 30; Pennsylvania, Oct. 7; Lehigh, Oct. 14; Yale, Oct. 21; at Princeton, Oct. 28; Dartmouth, Nov. 4; at Cornell, Nov. 11; at Brown, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: Ivy League does not compete in playoffs.

Nickname: Lions. **Site:** New York.

3. BROWN

Coach: Mark Whipple (7-3, 1 year; 55-20 overall, 7 years)
1994 record: 7-3, Ivy 4-3/T2nd

Top players: Paul Fichiera, HB; Brendan Finneran, DT; Marlon Francis, LB; Marquis Jesse, HB; Joe Karcusios, LB; Dan McClutchy, C; Jason McCullough, QB; Greg Parker, S; Tony Quamacco, DE; Matt Silva, OL.

Strengths: Offense, offense, offense. The Bears raised more than a few eyebrows when they tied a league record by scoring 59 points in their final game of the season (a 59-24 rout of Columbia). Whipple calls the offense "the Whip-Lash," and he has the horses to run it, including honorable mention all-league quarterback McCullough and the duo of Jesse and Fichiera, who combined for 1,488 yards last fall.

Weaknesses: Brown struggled on defense and the sec-

ondary will have all new faces in '95. Two new starters are needed on the offensive line, and a replacement must be found for kicker Bob Warden, a third-team All-America.

Outlook: Brown, coming off its first winning season since 1987, is out to prove that last year was no fluke. After many down seasons, the Bears will have to build on last year's surprising second-place finish with young players.

Schedule: at Yale, Sept. 16; Rhode Island, Sept. 23; at Holy Cross, Sept. 30; Princeton, Oct. 7; Colgate, Oct. 14; at Pennsylvania, Oct. 21; Cornell, Oct. 28; Harvard, Nov. 4; at Dartmouth, Nov. 11; Columbia, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: Ivy League does not compete in playoffs.

Nickname: Bears. **Site:** Providence, R.I.

4. CORNELL

Coach: Jim Hofner (29-21, 5 years).

1994 record: 6-4, Ivy 3-4/T4th.

Top players: Chris Allen, FS; Greg Bloedorn, C; Steve Bus, DE; Steve Joyce, QB; Doug Knopp, CB; Chad Levitt, TB; Ron Mateo, WR; Seth Payne, DT; John Rodin, PK; Terry Smith, TB; John Vitullo, LB.

Strengths: The Big Red has the league's top running back in Levitt, who rushed for 1,319 yards and averaged 7.8 points per game, both league-leading figures last season. Cornell also boasts experienced, strong lines on both sides of the ball.

Weakness: For the third consecutive year the Big Red will have a new starting quarterback. Joyce, a senior, is expected to take over this year. There's inexperience at wide receiver and in the secondary.

Outlook: Cornell is the only team that has finished in the top half of the Ivy League in each of the past five seasons. Last year, the Big Red began 6-0 before falling back to earth. Look for Cornell to be in the league race again.

Schedule: at Princeton, Sept. 16; Holy Cross, Sept. 23; at Dartmouth, Sept. 30; Harvard, Oct. 7; Bucknell, Oct. 14; at Lehigh, Oct. 21; at Brown, Oct. 28; Yale, Nov. 4; Columbia, Nov. 11; at Pennsylvania, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: Ivy League does not compete in playoffs.

Nickname: Big Red. **Site:** Ithaca, N.Y.

5. PRINCETON

Coach: Steve Tosches (53-26-1, 8 years)

1994 record: 7-3, Ivy 4-3/T2nd

Top players: Jimmy Archie, DB; Dale Bartley, DL; Brock Harvey, QB; Tom Ludwig, DB; Ryan Moore, OL; Harry Nakewiny, QB; John Ned, C; Darrell Oliveira, DE; Dave Patterson, LB; Marc Washington, RB; Carter Westfall, G.

Strengths: The Tigers have the best linebacking corps in the league and perhaps in school history. Patterson returns after a making a school-record 130 tackles last year. Moore pitched in with 78 stops and three sacks, and Oliveira added 70 tackles and nine sacks. Archie and Ludwig (seven interceptions) are top defensive backs.

Weaknesses: Although their top two quarterbacks (Harvey and Nakewiny) are back, the Tigers are inexperienced at running back and wide receiver. Washington is the only returning running back, and the tight end position is questionable.

Outlook: Princeton has won two league titles in the past eight years and has put together four consecutive winning seasons for the first time since 1967. After a slow start last year, the Tigers rallied to tie for second place. They should challenge again in 1995.

Schedule: Cornell, Sept. 16; Bucknell, Sept. 23; at Colgate, Sept. 30; at Brown, Oct. 7; Lafayette, Oct. 14; at Harvard, Oct. 21; Columbia, Oct. 28; at Pennsylvania, Nov. 4; Yale, Nov. 11; at Dartmouth, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: Ivy League does not compete in playoffs.

Nickname: Tigers. **Site:** Princeton, N.J.

6. HARVARD

Coach: Tim Murphy (4-6, 1 year; 36-51-1 overall, 8 years)

1994 record: 4-6, Ivy 2-5/T7th.

Top players: Jeff Compas, DB; Vin Ferrara, QB; Justin Frantz, LB; Tim Griffin, P; Mike Halligan, FL; Jason Hughes, DT; Eon Hu, HB; Sean Riley, OT; Colby Skelton, WR; Kireli Thompson, HB.

Strengths: Harvard has the Ivy League's top returning

quarterback in Ferrara, who set a school record with 16 consecutive completions against Dartmouth and had 124 for the season, the second-most by a Crimson signal-caller. The biggest surprise was the play of Hu, who captured the league's top rookie award by rushing for 1,011 yards and scoring 11 touchdowns.

Weaknesses: Three starters are gone from the offensive line and the defensive line has little experience. Frantz is the team's only returning linebacker.

Outlook: The Crimson showed new life last season under Murphy, who took over for longtime coach Joe Restic. Entering his second season, Murphy has a good nucleus to work with, but Harvard needs to show more consistency to move back among the league's elite.

Schedule: Columbia, Sept. 16; at Colgate, Sept. 23; Fordham, Sept. 30; at Cornell, Oct. 7; Holy Cross, Oct. 14; Princeton, Oct. 21; Dartmouth, Oct. 28; at Brown, Nov. 4; Pennsylvania, Nov. 11; at Yale, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: Ivy League does not compete in playoffs.

Nickname: Crimson. **Site:** Cambridge, Mass.

7. YALE

Coach: Carmen Cozza (174-104-5, 31 years)

1994 record: 5-5, Ivy 3-4/T4th.

Top players: Michael Bender, OT; Bob Greenlee, DL; Chris Hetherington, QB; Dan Iwan, WR; Rob Masella, KR/DB; Kevin Mayer, QB; Tony Mazurkewicz, DB; Dave Prybyla, TE.

Strengths: A strong defense returns almost intact on the line and in the secondary. Greenlee is one of the league's top defensive linemen, and Mazurkewicz and Masella are solid safeties. Masella also is an excellent punt returner.

Weaknesses: None of the running backs have any real varsity experience. At quarterback, Hetherington and/or Mayer have a lot to prove. The linebacking corps is thin.

Outlook: Yale finished strong last season and won the Big Game (32-13 over Harvard). The Bulldogs have been hurt by injuries the past few years and could rebound, but they have to find ways to score.

Schedule: Brown, Sept. 16; at Lehigh, Sept. 23; Connecticut, Sept. 30; at Holy Cross, Oct. 7; Dartmouth, Oct. 14; at Columbia, Oct. 21; Pennsylvania, Oct. 28; at Cornell, Nov. 4; at Princeton, Nov. 11; Harvard, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: Ivy League does not compete in playoffs.

Nickname: Bulldogs. **Site:** New Haven, Conn.

8. DARTMOUTH

Coach: John Lyons (19-11, 3 years).

1994 record: 4-6, Ivy 2-5/T7th.

Top players: Mark Abel, LB; Jon Aljancic, QB; J.J. Caslet, OL; Scott Haggood, LB; Brian Larsen, OT; Lloyd Lee, S; Taran Lent, LB; Pete Oberle, TB; Abe Rite, TE; Jerry Singleton, QB; Eric Swanson, LB; Jason Upshaw, DL.

Strengths: Two of the three quarterbacks who made starts last season should be healthy and ready to play. Singleton, a Colorado State transfer, threw for 620 yards and four touchdowns before breaking his wrist and being lost for the year. Aljancic, who took over when Singleton went down, is good at running the option. Larsen and Caslet are experienced offensive linemen.

Weaknesses: Oberle, one of the best backs in the league (625 yards in just 51/2 games), sustained a serious knee injury last season and is questionable for '95. The Big Green also has to replace three top receivers, including all-league pick David Shearer. Only one returning wide receiver caught a pass last season, and he caught just two.

Outlook: Dartmouth is in a rebuilding mode. But this program seldom is down for very long.

Schedule: at Pennsylvania, Sept. 16; at Fordham, Sept. 23; Cornell, Sept. 30; Lafayette, Oct. 7; at Yale, Oct. 14; Colgate, Oct. 21; at Harvard, Oct. 28; at Columbia, Nov. 4; Brown, Nov. 11; Princeton, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: Ivy League does not compete in playoffs.

Nickname: Big Green. **Site:** Hanover, N.H.

Text by Frank Benson.

Red Storm's Jermaine Creighton takes the Metro Atlantic by storm

By ROGER RUBIN

One thing you can say about St. John's sophomore running back Jermaine Creighton is that he makes quite a first impression.

The St. John's coaching staff found that out on a typical off-season day after the 1993 season. As Coach Bob Ricca worked quietly at his desk on the Jamaica, N.Y., campus, his staff, assembled in the next office, viewed tapes sent by prospective recruits.

When Creighton's tape was rolled, it caused such a frenzy among the assistant coaches that Ricca was summoned from his desk. "That truly is rare," Ricca said.

One couldn't blame the staff for its unabashed enthusiasm. The '93 season had been the last of four for St. John's running back Anthony Russo, the No. 3 rusher in NCAA history (all divisions), and coaches were eager to find an adequate replacement. Creighton, from nearby Wyandanch High on Long Island, got everyone's hopes up.

"It was a very impressive film," Red Storm offensive coordinator Bob Moltisanti said. "He had thin legs but a strong upper body, and he could see openings and hit them with a great burst of speed."

Though Ricca also was encouraged by the film, his reaction was tempered with realism. St. John's is a non-scholarship program, and the Red Storm staff knows a scholarship talent when it sees one. Ricca returned to his desk, resigned to the fact St. John's probably was out of the running for a player of Creighton's skills.

Scholarship offers did come Creighton's way during his final prep year, but the opportunities weren't quite right. "(One school) wanted me to move to inside receiver in a run-and-shoot," he said. "Others had other running backs. And I was interested in staying close to home."

"I saw an opportunity to play right away at St. John's, which isn't too far. Russo was gone. St. John's needed a tailback. Why not me?"

Creighton didn't disappoint. Not only did he go ahead and choose St. John's, he demonstrated a rare blend of speed, power and football smarts as a freshman. Such attributes put him a cut above the other running backs in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference. Time and again, Creighton showed he was a scholarship-caliber player flourishing in a non-scholarship league as he reeled off 10-yard gains almost at will.

Still, success didn't come instantly. Creighton, a 5-foot-9, 175-pounder, managed only 122 yards in his first three games. In his next three outings, though, he gained 549 and got St. John's rolling toward a 10-1 season. By the end of the year, he had amassed seven consecutive 100-yard rushing games and a season total of 1,164 yards (52 more than Russo accumulated as a freshman).

Ricca is tickled over finding considerably more than an adequate replacement for Russo. Creighton is the cornerstone of a foundation for what should be three more



St. John's Jermaine Creighton ran for 1,164 yards as a true freshman last season.

winning seasons, and he could smash many school rushing records before he's through. And, just maybe, he'll find a place in the NCAA record book.

"Some things are just hard to figure," said Ricca, marveling at his good fortune. "You lose a running back like Anthony Russo and you have to shrug and say, 'A guy like him comes around once in a lifetime.' Then Jermaine Creighton comes along and you wonder if you could be fortunate enough to get another."

Ironically, Russo's success drew Creighton to St. John's. "I had seen what Russo did here (5,834 yards on the ground, behind only all-time NCAA leader Johnny Bailey of Texas A&I and No. 2 Tony Dorsett of Pittsburgh) and I wanted to be a tailback just like he was," Creighton said. "He was good, but I am good, too. I see no reason I can't be as successful."

Creighton is getting along just fine without a free ride. In fact, the only rides he took last year were of the hour-long variety from his home to the commuter university. It didn't hurt that once he got to St. John's, he hooked up with another standout newcomer, quarterback Mark Levine.

Last season, Creighton and Levine combined to give the Red Storm a youthful and potent offense. When Creighton wasn't breaking into the clear, Levine was passing for 1,952 yards and 15 touchdowns.

Now, both sophomores are brimming with confidence after their banner seasons. And you have to wonder if the rest of the MAAC can stop them—particularly Jermaine Creighton, the ultimate replacement player. ♦

Roger Rubin is a sportswriter for New York Newsday.

METRO ATLANTIC

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. ST. JOHN'S
2. MARIST
3. GEORGETOWN
4. IONA
5. DUQUESNE
6. SIENA
7. ST. PETER'S
8. CANISIUS

ALL-MAAC TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	ANTHONY PORCARO, Iona	6-0/165	Jr
WR	ERIC SPEZIO, Iona	5-4/165	Soph
TE	JOHN PRIZNER, Canisius	6-0/205	Jr
T	DAN RHEIN, St. John's	6-2/225	Jr
T	DEREK deBAKKER, Georgetown	6-4/255	Sr
G	CARLOS R. VERA, Duquesne	6-3/280	Sr
G	ANDY CROCKER, Duquesne	6-3/275	Jr
C	STEVE MAZUROSKI, Siena	6-1/267	Jr
QB	TOM PROLDIAN, Iona	6-1/180	Sr
RB	JERMAINE CREIGHTON, St. John's	5-9/175	Soph
RB	JOVAN RHODES, Marist	5-11/175	Soph

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
E	JOHN WOJCIECHOWSKI, Duquesne	6-1/225	Sr
T	MIKE ORSI, Duquesne	5-9/265	Sr
T	JEFF SACCOMANNO, Marist	6-0/267	Sr
E	TIM BENITEZ, Georgetown	6-2/240	Sr
LB	TOM WONICA, Georgetown	5-11/220	Sr
LB	ROGER HANCOCK, Marist	5-11/200	Sr
LB	MARKEEM WATSON, St. Peter's	6-0/226	Jr
CB	STEPHEN DAAMICIS, St. John's	6-0/175	Jr
CB	MALIK WOODARD, Marist	5-11/172	Jr
S	MARIO WILSON, Marist	5-11/175	Soph
S	AARON F.X., Canisius	5-11/180	Sr

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
K	KRIS BERGMAN, Duquesne	5-9/160	Sr
P	BRUCE NELSON, Duquesne	6-4/180	Jr
KR	AARON FIX, Canisius	5-11/180	Sr

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

JERMAINE CREIGHTON
RB, St. John's



DEFENSE:

TOM WONICA
LB, Georgetown

METRO ATLANTIC ATHLETIC TEAM CHARTS

1. ST. JOHN'S

Coach: Bob Ricca (110-63-1, 17 years)

1994 record: 10-1 MAAC 6-1/71st

Top players: Jermaine Creighton, RB; Stephen DeAmicis, CB; Kurt Ditzler, DB; Steve Dombrowski, DL; Anthony Ferrara, DE; Ken Forte, DB; Randolph Howard, LB; Mark Levine, QB; John O'Leary, WR; Dan Parker, TE; Dan Rhein, OT

Strengths: Creighton is both talented and motivated; he is taking his pursuit of record-breaking St. John's predecessor Anthony Russo very seriously. Levine is a top-notch passer, has decent speed out of the pocket, reads defenses with aplomb and likely won't make the poor decisions he made last year as a freshman. The offensive line blocks well for the run and the pass.

Weaknesses: The Red Storm's defense was decimated by graduation but returns some skilled reserves. The special teams need a lot of work. Ricca must find a new punter and kicker.

Outlook: St. John's is coming off its best season and no team has more confidence in itself. With Levine calling the shots and Creighton carrying the ball, it could be another banner year in New York.

Schedule: at Pace, Sept. 16; at Monmouth, Sept. 23; Marist, Sept. 29; at Georgetown, Oct. 7; Canisius, Oct. 14; St. Peter's, Oct. 21; at Siena, Oct. 28; at Duquesne, Nov. 4; Iona, Nov. 10; Sacred Heart, Nov. 23

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Red Storm. **Site:** Jamaica, N.Y.

2. MARIST

Coach: Jim Parady (18-13-1, 3 years)

1994 record: 7-3 MAAC 6-1/71st

Top players: Omar Bivins, DE; Chris D'Autorio, WR/K; Pete Ford, QB; Roger Hancock, LB; Jovan Rhodes, TB; Jeff Saccomanno, DT; Mano Wilson, S; Malik Woodard, CB; James Wynkoop, OT

Strengths: Rhodes rushed for 1,058 yards last season and is one of the best backs in the conference. The receiving corps of D'Autorio, Curtin Wilkerson and Jon Reed is a cut above. The entire line returns from a defense that allowed only 97.8 rushing yards per game.

Weaknesses: The offensive line that Rhodes will run behind is young. The back seven on defense will be a huge question mark. The key losses were linebacker Rick Fish and cornerback Bruce Harris.

Outlook: Unlike last season, most of the Red Foxes' tough games will be on the road. But Rhodes' presence lends hope for another stellar season.

Schedule: Monmouth, Sept. 2; at Fordham, Sept. 9; at St. Francis, Sept. 16; at St. John's, Sept. 23; at Iona, Oct. 7; Duquesne, Oct. 14; at Canisius, Oct. 21; Georgetown, Oct. 28; St. Peter's, Nov. 4; Siena, Nov. 11

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Red Foxes. **Site:** Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

3. GEORGETOWN

Coach: Bob Benson (9-9, 2 years)

1994 record: 5-4 MAAC 4-3/73rd

Top players: Tim Benitez, DE; Jim Cesari, WR; Derek deBakker, OT; Joe Eacabacci, DE; Steve Iorio, RB; Chris Johnston, FS; Janna Kouri, DT; Enrico Martini, NT; Bill Ward, QB; Tom Wonica, LB

Strengths: There are 49 lettermen, including 20 with starting experience, returning from a team that closed 1994 with four consecutive victories. Defense will be the forte in the nation's capital, with Wonica (101 tackles) and Johnston (five interceptions) leading the way.

Weaknesses: The left side of the offensive line is being rebuilt. Players at the skill positions are young. A punter is needed.

Outlook: There is considerable experience and no shortage of confidence, so it's time for Benson's Hoyas to contend.

Schedule: at Iona, Sept. 18; Duquesne, Sept. 23; at Canisius, Sept. 30; St. John's, Oct. 7; Franklin & Marshall, Oct. 14; at Johns Hopkins, Oct. 20; at Marist, Oct. 28; Siena, Nov. 4; at St. Peter's, Nov. 11

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Hoyas. **Site:** Washington, D.C.

4. IONA

Coach: Harold Crocker (45-54-1, 10 years)

1994 record: 3-6 MAAC 3-4/5th

Top players: Dan Bergin, LB; John Calandross, DT; Ron Clark, DT; Michael Elfrech, DE; Whitney Epps, CB; Chris LaMotta, DB; Rich McCalla, RB; Anthony Porcari, WR; Tom Proudian, QB; Eric Spezio, WR

Strengths: Proudian is the conference's premier quarterback and he has excellent receivers, including Spezio and Porcari. Every key skill-position player has experience and the offensive line has plenty of veterans. Last season's young defensive line displayed outstanding potential.

Weaknesses: The defense nevertheless has a lot to prove after several sieve-like showings in '94. The kicking duties are up for grabs.

Outlook: Last season was a major disappointment for the Gaels, who were unbeaten in league play in 1993. There's too much offense here for Iona to stumble again, with Proudian giving Iona a chance to beat anyone on its schedule.

Schedule: Georgetown, Sept. 18; Pace, Sept. 23; at Siena, Sept. 30; Marist, Oct. 7; at St. Peter's, Oct. 14; at Wagner, Oct. 21; Duquesne, Oct. 28; at Canisius, Nov. 4; at St. John's, Nov. 10

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Gaels. **Site:** New Rochelle, N.Y.

5. DUQUESNE

Coach: Greg Gattuso (10-10, 2 years)

1994 record: 6-4 MAAC 4-3/73rd

Top players: Kris Bergman, K; Andy Crocker, G; Michael Kamauf, LB; Mauro Monz, DB; Joe Neckerman, LB; Mark Neely, WR; Bruce Neilson, WR/P; Mike Orsi, DT; Carlos Rivera, G; Brian Stanes, QB; John Wojciechowski, DE

Strengths: The Dukes, who should benefit from senior leadership, return more than 20 players with some starting duty and have a solid kick-returning corps. Stanes and Dave Loya provide quality quarterbacking.

Weaknesses: The offensive line needs retooling.

Outlook: There are no superstars on the Duquesne roster but most positions seem well-fortified. Quick, athletic players are on hand at running back and wide receiver and the kicking game appears strong. With a little luck, Gattuso's team could be a Metro Atlantic sleeper in 1995.

Schedule: at St. Francis, Sept. 9; Robert Morris, Sept. 16; at Georgetown, Sept. 23; at Gannon (Pa.), Sept. 30; St. Peter's, Oct. 7; at Marist, Oct. 14; Siena, Oct. 21; at Iona, Oct. 28; St. John's, Nov. 4; Canisius, Nov. 11

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Dukes. **Site:** Pittsburgh.

6. SIENA

Coach: Jack DuBois (14-51, 7 years)

1994 record: 2-7 MAAC 2-5/76th

Top players: Dave Commander, G; Ande DiDomenico, WR; Tom Gianatasio, DE; Reggie Green, RB; Scott Hartman, LB; Todd Keefer, S; Steve Mazurek, C; Scott Riecke, QB; Jeff Sawulski, RB; Scott Snyder, LB

Strengths: The return of Riecke, Sawulski, Green and DiDomenico gives Siena the nucleus for a potentially formidable offense. Snyder and Hartman head a tough group of linebackers.

Weaknesses: The Saints lack size and depth and are inexperienced on the defensive line.

Outlook: Success seems to be at least a year or two away for DuBois and company. Siena will have to gear up for a tough finish in '95, with its final three games (two of them on the road) coming against the MAAC's top teams.

Schedule: Canisius, Sept. 16; St. Peter's, Sept. 23; Iona, Sept. 30; at Rensselaer, Oct. 7; at Central Connecticut, Oct. 14; at Duquesne, Oct. 21; St. John's, Oct. 28; at Georgetown, Nov. 4; at Marist, Nov. 11

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Saints. **Site:** Loudonville, N.Y.

7. ST. PETER'S

Coach: Mark Collins (1-8, 1 year)

1994 record: 1-8 MAAC 1-6/8th

Top players: Eric Baxter, LB/TE; Carlos Dias, OT; Keith Ketties, DB/QB; Eddie McDowell, RB/DB; Marc Molloy, OT

Enrique Pizarro, DL; Justin Treloar, OL; Markham Watson, LB; John Wiseburn, LB/DB/P; Lou Zampella, DB

Strengths: The offensive line returns intact and there's plenty of experience in the defensive backfield. The best news, though, is the presence of Watson, a junior who made 123 tackles last season.

Weaknesses: That offensive line is a veteran unit, all right, but it gave inadequate protection to the Peacocks' quarterbacks in '94. Newcomers will man most of the skill positions. Special-teams play has been atrocious.

Outlook: Freshmen must step up to compensate for the lack of depth—and talent. In the world of non-scholarship football, though, it's virtually impossible for St. Peter's—or anyone else—to gauge the strength of its incoming class.

Schedule: Monmouth, Sept. 18; at Siena, Sept. 23; Wagner, Sept. 29; at Duquesne, Oct. 7; Iona, Oct. 14; at St. John's, Oct. 21; Canisius, Oct. 28; at Marist, Nov. 4; Georgetown, Nov. 11

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Peacocks. **Site:** Jersey City, N.J.

8. CANISIUS

Coach: Chuck Williams (1st year)

1994 record: 2-8 MAAC 2-5/76th

Top players: Tom Bernardo, WR; Chris Carlson, FS; Scott Dochal, DE; Chris Edwards, OT; Aaron Fix, SS/KR; C.J. Hurrell, LB; Mark Kolbe, WR; Scott Phillips, TB; John Pzner, TE; Frank Zabawa, DE

Strengths: Edwards, a 285-pounder, will anchor the offensive line. Kolbe has great hands. The defense played very well in '94 during an eight-loss season. Most of all, there's Fix, a fine defender and punt-returner extraordinaire. Last year, Fix ran back three punts for touchdowns in one game.

Weaknesses: The offensive backfield is unsettled. The Golden Griffins are desperate at running back.

Outlook: Williams, 61, was promoted to coach from his defensive coordinator post. Fix and the special teams may be able to produce some victories for Williams, but there are too many question marks for Canisius to contend this season.

Schedule: Mercyhurst (Pa.), Sept. 7; at Siena, Sept. 16; Gannon (Pa.), Sept. 23; Georgetown, Sept. 30; at Buffalo State, Oct. 7; at St. John's, Oct. 14; Marist, Oct. 21; at St. Peter's, Oct. 28; Iona, Nov. 4; at Duquesne, Nov. 11

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Golden Griffins. **Site:** Buffalo.

Text by Roger Rubin.



Canisius offensive tackle Chris Edwards.

When the game is on the line, Bulldogs' Hicks wants the ball

By NEIL WHITE

Crunch time. It's the defining moment of a game, when the score is tight and the clock is winding down. It's the time when the game is won or lost.

For South Carolina State, it simply is the time to get the ball in Michael Hicks' hands.

"He waits for it. He loves it," South Carolina State Coach Willie Jeffries said of his standout senior tailback. "When the game's on the line, he wants the football."

Jeffries begins to recite Hicks' heroics.

- With 4:38 left, Hicks breaks off a 72-yard touchdown run to break a 27-27 tie in the Bulldogs' 1993 victory over Bethune-Cookman. He finishes with 196 yards and three touchdowns.

- In a 58-52 triple-overtime victory over North Carolina A&T in 1993, Hicks rushes for 228 yards and five touchdowns, one coming on a 75-yard run that begins a 24-point fourth quarter.

- Against Delaware State in 1994, Hicks scores on a 24-yard run—his fourth touchdown of the game—with 34 seconds left to give South Carolina State a 42-38 victory. The decisive touchdown caps off a 208-yard day.

"When we need a touchdown, he'll figure out how to get it, whether it's 80 yards or 20 yards," Jeffries said. "I've noticed when we were behind, he'll get the football and make some unbelievable runs, some things I haven't seen anybody else do before. Michael has a little something extra he can give you when it gets tight in the critical moments."

Scoring seemingly comes naturally for Hicks, who led Division I-AA and set a Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference record with 22 touchdowns last season, when he was named a second-team Division I-AA All-America. That increased Hicks' two-season touchdown total to 39, nine behind the conference record set by Howard's Harvey Reed (1984-87).

Reed's MEAC career rushing record (4,142 yards) also stands on unsound ground. Hicks, who missed his freshman year because he did not meet minimum academic requirements, needs 1,386 yards to surpass Reed. After rushing for a school-record 1,388 yards as a sophomore and 1,368 last season, Hicks is right on track.

Even though the numbers scream out, Hicks does not. He never showboats on the field, and he is exceedingly quiet off it.

"He's one of the finest gentlemen you've ever met in your life," Jeffries said. "Never a disciplinary problem."

Ask the soft-spoken Hicks what makes him special and he pauses.

"I really don't know," he said. "Instincts, I guess. That's about it."

He downplays his accomplishments.

"There's a little satisfaction," he said. "I really don't think I've played the first couple of years the way I'm capable of playing."

But he isn't so modest that he doesn't set exacting standards for himself. How much



South Carolina State's Michael Hicks is on track to become the MEAC's all-time rusher.

better could he play? Well, he doesn't shy from talk about gaining 2,000 yards in '95.

"Anything's possible," he said. "Hopefully, I'll be able to accomplish that."

If he does, NFL scouts will be wandering through Orangeburg for a look. Jeffries certainly expects him to keep playing after he leaves school.

"He can make it because he can run with the best of them," Jeffries said. "He can block and he has the best pair of hands catching the football. He's got the whole package."

And as Hicks—who's 6-foot-1 and 185 pounds—racks up numbers on the field, the Bulldogs pile up impressive numbers in the win column. In 1994, South Carolina State finished 10-2, including a MEAC championship and a 31-27 Heritage Bowl victory over Grambling. It was the Bulldogs' second consecutive Heritage Bowl appearance.

Jeffries knows how fortunate he was to land Hicks. At Lamar County High in Barnesville, Ga., Hicks ran for 2,413 yards as a senior. Southeastern Conference schools lined up, then backed off when it became apparent Hicks wouldn't qualify academically.

Georgia tried to place him at Georgia Military, a junior college. But Hicks decided to go to a four-year school right away and he liked Jeffries' program, a traditional MEAC powerhouse.

No regrets there, even though he had to sit out his freshman year to work on academics.

"I made a great choice coming to South Carolina State," Hicks said.

Jeffries couldn't agree more.

"I knew he was a good running back, but I didn't know he was going to be as good of a football player as he has turned out to be," he said.

Especially during crunch time. ♦

Neil White covers college sports for The State in Columbia, S.C.

MEAC

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
2. DELAWARE STATE
3. FLORIDA A&M
4. NORTH CAROLINA A&T
5. BETHUNE-COOKMAN
6. HOWARD
7. MORGAN STATE

ALL-MEAC TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name	School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	ROBERT WILSON	Florida A&M	6-0/175	Sr
WR	MORRIS NOBLE	Bethune-Cookman	6-3/190	Sr
TE	KELLY CRAIG	South Carolina State	6-2/225	Sr
T	RALEIGH ROUNDTREE	South Carolina State	6-5/285	Jr
T	KEITH JARVIS	Delaware State	6-3/275	Sr
G	CECIL FISHER	Bethune-Cookman	6-3/250	Sr
G	BENJIE LEE	Delaware State	6-1/275	Sr
C	JOE BROWN	Bethune-Cookman	6-4/280	Jr
QB	MICHAEL MOORE	Morgan State	6-1/200	Sr
RB	MICHAEL HICKS	South Carolina State	6-1/185	Sr
RB	FABIAN THORNE	Delaware State	5-9/220	Sr

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name	School	Ht./Wt.	Class
E	RAYMOND WOODIE	Bethune-Cookman	6-3/220	Sr
T	REGGIE LEE	Florida A&M	6-2/260	Sr
E	ROD WILLIAMS	Florida A&M	6-3/260	Sr
LB	EARL HOLMES	Florida A&M	6-3/230	Sr
LB	TIM JOHNSON	North Carolina A&T	6-1/235	Sr
LB	LEVI BAUCOM	Morgan State	6-2/240	Sr
LB	ROD McDUGAL	North Carolina A&T	6-5/190	Sr
CB	ROUSSEL THOMAS	South Carolina State	5-9/170	Sr
CB	KELVIN POPE	South Carolina State	5-10/175	Sr
S	WILLIE OGLESBY	Bethune-Cookman	6-5/210	Jr
S	WILLIAM BURCH	Howard	6-1/180	Jr

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name	School	Ht./Wt.	Class
K	JASON DECUIR	Howard	5-8/160	Jr
P	RUBEN RUIZ	Howard	5-8/160	Jr
KR	TYRONE SNEED	Bethune-Cookman	5-6/170	Jr

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

MICHAEL HICKS
RB, South Carolina State



DEFENSE:

EARL HOLMES
LB, Florida A&M

MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC TEAM CHARTS

1. SOUTH CAROLINA STATE

Coach: Willie Jeffries (91-37-4, 12 years; 142-93-6 overall, 21 years)

1994 record: 10-2 (beat Grambling State in Heritage Bowl) MEAC 6-0/1st

Top players: Kenny Bynum, RB; Kelly Craig, TE; Jermaine Demcott, DB; Michael Hicks, RB; Timothy Holmes, P/DB; Bobby McGowens, WR; Lamond Nelson, LB; Dameron Palmer, LB; Kevin Pope, CB; Raleigh Roundtree, DT, Russell Thomas, CB/KR

Strengths: With Hicks, South Carolina State's all-time leading rusher, running behind an experienced line, the Bulldogs should charge right at opponents, just how Jeffries likes it. The defense should be better, thanks to talent at linebacker and in the secondary

Weaknesses: Replacing magical quarterback Marvin Marshall will be difficult, and South Carolina State lacks experience at wide receiver. That means the passing game may be nonexistent. The defensive front will miss star end Anthony Cook as much as the offense will miss Marshall. A kicker must emerge.

Outlook: The Bulldogs, who are coming off their first MEAC crown since 1983, won't go another 10 years between titles. South Carolina State will go as far as Hicks, who's gunning for his third consecutive MEAC rushing title, takes it, which may be to first place

Schedule: at Georgia Southern, Sept. 2; Furman, Sept. 9; Charleston Southern, Sept. 16; Tennessee State (at Atlanta) Sept. 30; at Morgan State, Oct. 7; at Bethune-Cookman, Oct. 14; Hampton, Oct. 21; Delaware State, Oct. 28; at Howard, Nov. 4; Florida A&M, Nov. 11; North Carolina A&T, Nov. 18

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1982

Nickname: Bulldogs. **Site:** Orangeburg, S.C.

2. DELAWARE STATE

Coach: William Colick (72-35, 10 years)

1994 record: 7-4 MEAC 4-2/2nd

Top players: Tarik Abu-Qasim, LB; Jameal Blagmon, SS; Keith Jarvis, OT; Cedric Jones, DT; Dennis Jones, QB; Bennie Lee, G; Ernest Shockey, DE; Fabian Thome, FB; Ronnie Wilkerson, LB; Jason Williams, FS

Strengths: Jarvis and Lee return to open holes for Thome, who rushed for 1,063 yards and 13 touchdowns last season. Jones, the conference's top-rated passer, returns as well, giving the Hornets plenty of ways to sting opponents. **Weaknesses:** The defense doesn't possess a big-play guy. Maybe Blagmon, Williams, Abu-Qasim or Jones will fill the bill. Or maybe they'll all play well enough that it won't matter. The top three pass-catchers, who combined for 143 receptions and 1,600 yards, are gone. A punter and kicker must be found.

Outlook: The Hornets won four of their last five games to finish with a non-losing record for the 12th consecutive season. That streak should continue, and Delaware State may even claim its first MEAC title since 1991

Schedule: Rhode Island, Sept. 2; at Western Illinois, Sept. 16; Liberty, Sept. 23; Norfolk (Va.) State, Sept. 30; at Hampton, Oct. 7; at Florida A&M, Oct. 14; Morgan State, Oct. 21; at South Carolina State, Oct. 28; at North Carolina A&T, Nov. 4; Bethune-Cookman, Nov. 11; Howard, Nov. 18

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Hornets. **Site:** Dover, Del.

3. FLORIDA A&M

Coach: William (Billy) Joe (6-5, 1 year; 172-59-4 overall, 21 years)

1994 record: 6-5 MEAC 2-4/5th

Top players: Demetrius Billie, OL; Tony Bland, WR; Primus Burley, DB; Ray Domingo, QB; Reggie Glover, FB; Earl Holmes, LB; Reggie Lee, DT; Rod Williams, DE; Robert Wilson, WR

Strengths: The Rattlers can play defense. Florida A&M topped the MEAC in scoring (17.1 points per game) and total defense (309.1 yards per game) last season. Expect more of the same, thanks to Williams, Lee and Holmes, a ferocious hater who makes plays all over the field.

Weaknesses: An inconsistent offense doomed the Rattlers last season. And FAMU's best offensive player, running back Sha-mel Simpkins, has departed. The defense, which will have an inexperienced secondary, may need to pitch a string of shutouts for FAMU to win consistently

Outlook: Joe's first season in Tallahassee produced highs (victories over Grambling and Southern) and lows (losses to Morgan State and archival Bethune-Cookman). Count on the Rattlers being more consistent this season

Schedule: Tuskegee (Ala.), Sept. 2; at Miami (Fla.), Sept. 9; Jackson State, Sept. 16; Tennessee State (at Orlando), Sept. 23; at Howard, Sept. 30; at North Carolina A&T, Oct. 7; Delaware State, Oct. 14; Morgan State, Oct. 28; Southern (at Atlanta), Nov. 4; at South Carolina State, Nov. 11; Bethune-Cookman (at Tampa), Nov. 25

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1978

Nickname: Rattlers. **Site:** Tallahassee, Fla.

4. NORTH CAROLINA A&T

Coach: Bill Hayes (48-31, 7 years; 137-71-2 overall, 19 years)

1994 record: 6-5 MEAC 3-3/3rd

Top players: Dale Adair, DB; Carlos Baldwin, TE; Maseo Boin, QB; James Bowden, WR; Mike Hamilton, LB; Toran James, DT; Tim Johnson, LB; Lamont Jones, G; Jerome Knight, DB; Rod McDougal, LB; Milton Shaw, RB (transfer/Clemson); Jamian Stephens, OT

Strengths: The Aggies' linebackers, including Johnson, Hamilton and McDougal, are studs who should make life miserable for MEAC runners. Throw in James, and points and yards will be in short supply for A&T foes. The receivers figure to shine

Weaknesses: For the Aggies to improve offensively, Boin must step up. He has to reduce his interceptions. Developing some running backs is a high priority

Outlook: Never overlook North Carolina A&T if they aren't in the thick of the title hunt, the Aggies figure to have a say about who wins it

Schedule: at North Carolina Central, Sept. 3; at Winston-Salem (N.C.) State, Sept. 9; Appalachian State, Sept. 16; at Jacksonville State, Sept. 23; Florida A&M, Oct. 7; at Morgan State, Oct. 14; Howard, Oct. 21; at Bethune-Cookman, Oct. 28; Delaware State, Nov. 4; Lane (Tenn.) Nov. 11; South Carolina State, Nov. 18

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1992

Nickname: Aggies. **Site:** Greensboro, N.C.

5. BETHUNE-COOKMAN

Coach: Jack (Cy) McClaren (66-43-3, 13 years)

1994 record: 5-6 MEAC 3-3/3rd

Top players: Joe Brown, C; Morris Nobles, WR; Willie Oglesby, S; Demarc Payne, DB; Cecil Risher, G; Tyrone Sneed, WR/KR; Steve Wallace, RB; Wilmer White, RB; Michael Womack, LB; Raymond Woodie, DE

Strengths: Woodie and Oglesby are the stars of a defense that should keep the Wildcats in every game. White and Nobles are the skill-position players to watch on offense. They'll benefit from the blocking of Risher and Brown. The linebackers and secondary are solid. Sneed is a dangerous return man

Weaknesses: The Wildcats lack a proven quarterback. Depth on both lines also appears to be a problem. A kicker must emerge

Outlook: The rest of the conference isn't likely to overlook Bethune-Cookman this season, not after the job the wily McClaren, who won MEAC Coach of the Year honors, did in 1994, when he resuscitated a program that went 1-10 in '93. Bethune-Cookman is improving, but don't expect the Wildcats to post their first winning record since 1985, as there is a tough non-conference schedule

Schedule: Howard, Sept. 2; Morgan State, Sept. 9; at UT Chattanooga, Sept. 16; Hampton (at Jacksonville), Sept. 30; at Norfolk (Va.) State, Oct. 7; South Carolina State, Oct. 14; at Albany (Ga.) State, Oct. 21; North Carolina A&T, Oct. 28; at Central Florida, Nov. 4; at Delaware State, Nov. 11; Florida A&M (at Tampa), Nov. 25

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

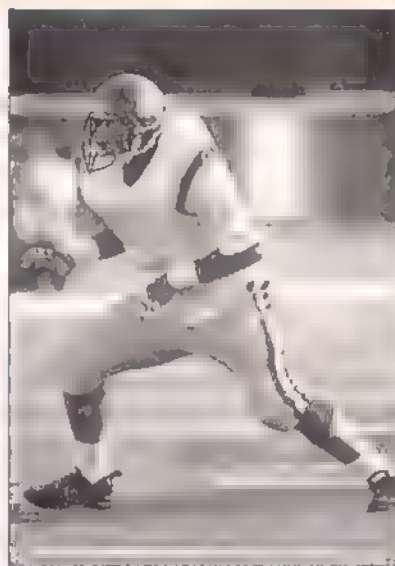
Nickname: Wildcats. **Site:** Daytona Beach, Fla.

6. HOWARD

Coach: Steve Wilson (38-29, 6 years)

1994 record: 4-7 MEAC 1-5/7th

Top players: Robert Bell, OT; William Burch, S; David Carrington, LB; Marc Christie, LB; Jason Decur, K; Daryl Hall, C; Anthony Hayward, OT; Sebastian Owens, WR; Clarence Peacock, LB; Ruben Ruiz, P; Sylvester Settles, CB; Marco Ward, WR



Morgan State linebacker Levi Baucom.

Strengths: Start with the conference's best punter (Ruiz) and kicker (Decur). The offensive line, led by Hall and Bell, returns four starters. The receivers and linebackers should be solid. Problems that stem from inexperience, a bugaboo in '94, should be minimal

Weaknesses: The front seven on defense still is weak, which means Settles and Burch may be making a lot of tackles in the secondary. There's no proven quarterback. Junior Antonio King is the front-runner, but he'll be pushed by redshirt freshman Ted White

Outlook: The Bison took the express elevator down last season, crashing to the basement after going 11-1 (6-0 in the MEAC) in '93. Howard should improve in 1995, but it won't finish in the upper division

Schedule: at Bethune-Cookman, Sept. 2; Hampton, Sept. 9; North Carolina Central, Sept. 16; Arkansas-Pine Bluff (at St. Louis), Sept. 23; Florida A&M, Sept. 30; Alcorn State (at Indianapolis), Oct. 7; at North Carolina A&T, Oct. 21; Morehouse (Ga.), Oct. 28; South Carolina State, Nov. 4; at Morgan State, Nov. 11; at Delaware State, Nov. 18

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1993

Nickname: Bison. **Site:** Washington, D.C.

7. MORGAN STATE

Coach: Ricky Diggs (8-35, 4 years)

1994 record: 3-6 MEAC 2-4/5th

Top players: Levi Baucom, LB; D'Anthony Cameron, WR; Marcus Moore, G; Michael Moore, QB; Jeffrey Myers, OT; Daryl Ray, HB; Jason Stamper, OT; Andre Thomas, FB; Willie Thompson, NG; Chris Ursini, WR

Strengths: Michael Moore and Thomas lead an offense that's adequate. They'll work behind a line that has four starters back. The hard-hitting Baucom is an impact player on defense. For the first time in school history, the Bears will have three full-time offensive and defensive assistants

Weaknesses: Who'll help Baucom tackle opponents? Morgan gave up 38.2 points and 404.5 yards per game last season, the lowlight of which was an 87-12 loss to Grambling

Outlook: Much-maligned Morgan State improved last season, which was highlighted by victories over Florida A&M and Howard that allowed the Bears to escape the cellar. Given its lack of resources, Morgan State will have problems taking another step forward

Schedule: at James Madison, Sept. 2; at Bethune-Cookman, Sept. 9; Cheyney (Pa.), Sept. 23; South Carolina State, Oct. 7; North Carolina A&T, Oct. 14; at Delaware State, Oct. 21; at Florida A&M, Oct. 28; at Samford, Nov. 4; Howard, Nov. 11; at Hampton, Nov. 18

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Bears. **Site:** Baltimore

Text by Neil White

Holcey has become big fish in small pond after leaving Auburn

By TONY PETTIS

It's about 20 miles from Tuskegee, Ala., to the Auburn University campus. At one time, Michael Holcey thought that was perfect.

In 1992, Holcey was a freshman linebacker for Auburn, trying to make sense of college classes and at the same time convince his coaches that he was too good to redshirt.

And if those pressures got too tough, he was just a few minutes' drive from the warmth of home, eating well and feeling better.

Problem was, the pressures got too tough too often.

"I had to transfer," said Holcey, who enters his junior year at Tennessee State this season. "I was too close to home and I felt like I needed to get farther away. Every day I could go home and I don't think I was focused on football."

"Here the only thing I can do is grades and football."

He is doing both of them well. On the school end, he is on course to earn a degree in physical education. In football, he is on a collision course with every quarterback in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Last season, his second at Tennessee State, Holcey registered 83 tackles (61 unassisted) and had eight sacks. He also caused three fumbles and recovered three. He had one interception and broke up one pass.

To Tennessee State Coach Bill Davis, those are numbers that give offensive coordinators headaches.

"He is what I would call an impact player," Davis said. "He makes things happen on defense. He's somebody that you have to account for on every play, or he'll hurt you."

Holcey thinks it all goes back to the year he spent at Auburn, in the fishbowl of a Division I program. Even though he was redshirted, he went head-to-head in practice with players who were talented but not very friendly to upstart freshmen who wanted their jobs.

According to Holcey, you had no choice but to get better.

"In Division I, there is no half-speed," he said. "There's much more competition and you learn a lot more because you're going up against somebody that's just as good as you are. Practices and games are so intense because the players know there are people right below them that will take their jobs if they don't go all out."

"I don't think I would be as good of a player if I hadn't started out at Auburn."

Davis said Holcey's attitude has played a part as well.

"A lot of guys who transfer down to I-AA from Division I think they're better than the average player," Davis said. "They just transfer because they want to play more and not because it's best for them."

"But if they want to get an education and play football and their philosophy is the same as the situation they're coming to,



Tennessee State linebacker Michael Holcey finished second in the OVC in fumble recoveries.

then it can be a positive transition. That's the way it was for Michael."

As impressive as his numbers were last year, few around the league seemed to notice when the season was over. Despite finishing third in the OVC in sacks and tied for second in fumble recoveries, he was not named to the all-conference team picked by the league coaches and sports information directors.

"I was really shocked at that," Davis said. "There weren't many linebackers in the league last year that were in his class. What he needs to do now is show that what he did last year is really the kind of player Michael Holcey is."

That's the plan, Holcey says.

"At the end of the season, I thought I would make All-OVC, but it really didn't affect me when I didn't," he said. "I knew I had done a good job and I've got two more years to do that kind of stuff."

He also has two more chances to help the Tigers break their streak of losing seasons, which now stands at four. Tennessee State was 4-7 in Holcey's first year and 5-6 a year ago.

The irony is that if he had stayed at Auburn, Holcey would have been part of the Tigers' 11-0 season of 1993. Does he have any regrets?

"I'm not going to lie. I wouldn't mind having a ring," he said. "I still have a lot of friends down there and I still hope they have a great year every year."

"But I think I made the right decision for me. I wouldn't change a thing." ♦

Tony Pettis covers the Ohio Valley Conference for the Nashville Banner.

OHIO VALLEY

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. EASTERN KENTUCKY
2. MIDDLE TENNESSEE ST.
3. TENNESSEE STATE
4. SE MISSOURI STATE
5. TENNESSEE TECH
6. MURRAY STATE
7. AUSTIN PEAY
8. UT MARTIN
9. MOREHEAD STATE

ALL-OVC TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	LAWRENCE SEGREE, Tennessee St.	6-2/195	Sr.
WR	CLAFENCE JONES, Tennessee St.	6-1/185	Sr.
TE	CHRIS WHITEFIELD, E. Kentucky	6-2/256	Sr.
T	JASON COMBS, E. Kentucky	6-1/281	Sr.
T	BURT TALLEY, Middle Tennessee St.	6-3/285	Sr.
G	JAMES HAND, Eastern Kentucky	6-1/270	Sr.
G	CHRIS REID, Tennessee Tech	6-2/250	Sr.
C	DURAND FRIERSON, SE Missouri	6-3/260	Jr.
QB	DARYL WILLIAMS, Tennessee St.	6-1/175	Sr.
RB	MICHAEL PENIX, Tennessee Tech	6-1/190	Sr.
RB	JACOB DICKSON, Austin Peay	6-0/220	Jr.

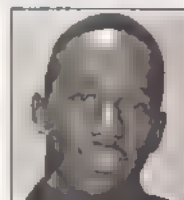
DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
E	ANTHONY MCCORD, Middle Tennessee St.	6-0/230	Jr.
T	JIM LACKEY, Tennessee State	6-2/280	Sr.
T	BRAD GODWIN, UT Martin	6-1/280	Sr.
E	ADAM WRIGHT, Tennessee Tech	6-2/240	Jr.
LB	TONY MCCOMBS, E. Kentucky	6-2/235	Jr.
LB	MATHANEL CLAYBROOKS, Middle Tennessee St.	5-11/223	Sr.
LB	MICHAEL HOLCEY, Tennessee St.	6-3/235	Jr.
CB	BOB HEAD, Eastern Kentucky	6-1/185	Jr.
CB	CHRIS SHORTON, Middle Tennessee St.	5-10/176	Soph.
S	DARRELL WILLIAMS, Tennessee St.	5-10/195	Sr.
S	GREG KLUND, SE Missouri	5-11/170	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
K	MARC COLLINS, E. Kentucky	6-4/208	Sr.
P	BRANDON THOMAS, Middle Tennessee St.	6-0/190	Soph.
KR	DIONE TYLER, SE Missouri	5-9/180	Sr.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

MICHAEL PENIX
RB, Tennessee Tech



DEFENSE:

MICHAEL HOLCEY
LB, Tennessee State

OHIO VALLEY TEAM CHARTS

1. EASTERN KENTUCKY

Coach: Roy Kidd (257-91-8, 31 years).
1994 record: 10-3 (including 1-1 in I-AA playoffs). OVC: 8-0/1st.
Top players: Dallas Burks, SE, Marc Collins, K/P; Jason Combs, DT; Greg Couch, QB; Chris Guiton, FS; James Hand, G; Bob Head, CB; Tony McCombs, LB; Joe S. Smith, SS; Son Tran, G/C; Bobby Washington, FL; Chris Whitefield, TE.
Strengths: The defending league champs appear to be solid everywhere. Couch, who sat on the bench in favor of Penn State transfer John Sacco a year ago, is a proven quarterback who led EKU to the OVC title two years ago. As usual, the lines are stacked. Collins is a good locker.
Weaknesses: When last season's leading rusher, Eric Clay, decided to transfer to a lower-division school, it left the Colonels without a proven tailback. That's a rarity at this school. Kentucky transfer Daymon Carter may help.
Linebacker: Victor Hyland, who had more than 100 tackles last year, will miss the season after injuring a knee during spring.
Outlook: Even in a down year, Eastern is a good pick to win the league. But with a huge senior class and possible all-conference players at key positions like tight end and defensive back, Kidd still might have enough to make a run at his third national title. EKU is going for its 12th OVC title in 15 years.
Schedule: at Central Florida, Aug. 31; Western Kentucky, Sept. 9; at Tennessee Tech, Sept. 23; at Southeast Missouri State, Sept. 30; Middle Tennessee State, Oct. 14; UT Martin, Oct. 21; at Tennessee State, Oct. 28; at Murray State, Nov. 4; Austin Peay, Nov. 11; Morehead State, Nov. 18.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1994.
Nickname: Colonels. **Site:** Richmond, Ky.

2. MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE

Coach: Boots Donnelly (188-67-1, 18 years; 132-74-1 overall, 18 years).
1994 record: 8-3-1 (including 0-1 in I-AA playoffs). OVC: 7-1/2nd.
Top players: Nathaniel Claybrooks, LB; Brian Davis, QB; Anthony Hicks, LB; Rick Holiday, DL; Brigham Lyons, TB; Anthony McCord, DE; Robbie Roberts, FB; Chris Snorton, CB; Burl Talley, OT; Brandon Thomas, P.
Strengths: If Donnelly can find some depth, the defense could be outstanding. Claybrooks has All-America potential, while Snorton, a sophomore, is one of the Ohio Valley's best cornerbacks despite having made just seven starts.
Weaknesses: Virtually any skill position is a potential liability. Quarterback running back and kicker are wide open going into fall drills. With just 37 lettermen returning, any injury is going to create a hole that will be tough to fill. The schedule is a killer, too.
Outlook: Donnelly cries every year about how his team is overrated. With only eight starters back, could this be the year he finally is taken seriously?
Schedule: Tennessee State, Sept. 2; at Georgia Southern, Sept. 9; at Morehead State, Sept. 16; Murray State, Sept. 23; Alabama-Birmingham, Sept. 30; at Austin Peay, Oct. 7; at Eastern Kentucky, Oct. 14; Southeast Missouri State, Oct. 21; UT Martin, Nov. 4; at Tennessee Tech, Nov. 11; at Texas A&M, Nov. 18.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1994.
Nickname: Blue Raiders. **Site:** Murfreesboro, Tenn.

3. TENNESSEE STATE

Coach: Bill Davis (9-13, 2 years; 111-82-1 overall, 16 years).
1994 record: 5-6 OVC: 4-4/4th.
Top players: Keith Collins, DT; Robert Hillman, DE; Michael Holcey, LB; Thomas Jackson, LB; Clarence Jones, WR; Jim Lackey, DT; Royce McGowan, OL; Lawrence Segree, WR; Darrell Williams, FS; Daryl Williams, QB.
Strengths: The passing game could set records if Daryl Williams and wide receivers Segree and Jones stay healthy. Darrell Williams is a punishing safety, and Holcey is on the verge of a monster year.
Weaknesses: With the program having suffered through four consecutive losing seasons, Davis has to be concerned that the players have forgotten how to win consistently. Depth, especially along both lines, could be a problem.
Outlook: This could be the season Tennessee State finally asserts itself in the OVC. All the pieces to the puzzle are there. It's up to Davis to make them fit.
Schedule: at Middle Tennessee State, Sept. 2; at Jackson State, Sept. 9; at Florida A&M, Sept. 23; South Carolina State (in Atlanta), Sept. 30; Morehead State, Oct. 7; at UT

Martin, Oct. 14; at Austin Peay, Oct. 21; Eastern Kentucky, Oct. 28; at Tennessee Tech, Nov. 4; Murray State, Nov. 11; at Southeast Missouri State, Nov. 18.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1986.
Nickname: Tigers. **Site:** Nashville.

4. SE MISSOURI STATE

Coach: John Mumford (22-33, 5 years).
1994 record: 7-5 OVC: 5-3/3rd.
Top players: Durand Frisner, C; Bobby Haggerty, LB; Fred Hoston, QB; Shane Kennedy, QB; Greg Klund, S; Stanley Parker, FB; Jeff Rehberger, G; Angel Rubio, NG; Frank Russell, DB; Ronald Smith, DB; Done Tyler, RB/KR.
Strengths: The Indians are large and experienced on the offensive line. The secondary, which had eight interceptions a year ago, returns intact. Rubio makes things happen.
Weaknesses: A replacement must be found for tailback Kelvin Anderson, who rushed for more than 1,000 yards in each of the past three seasons. The quarterbacking is unsettled as Kennedy and Hoston, both of whom started at times last season, go into the fall battling for the position.
Outlook: Last season was the Indians' best since moving to Division I-AA in 1992. If Mumford can keep the players' attitude high, this one could be even better.
Schedule: Southern Illinois, Aug. 31; at Eastern Illinois, Sept. 9; at Murray State, Sept. 16; at Austin Peay, Sept. 23; Eastern Kentucky, Sept. 30; Tennessee Tech, Oct. 7; at Middle Tennessee State, Oct. 21; at UT Martin, Oct. 28; Morehead State, Nov. 4; Southwest Missouri State, Nov. 11; Tennessee State, Nov. 18.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.
Nickname: Indians. **Site:** Cape Girardeau, Mo.

5. TENNESSEE TECH

Coach: Jim Ragland (39-58, 9 years).
1994 record: 5-6 OVC: 3-5/6th.
Top players: Gerald Bentley, WR; Trent McNaull, LB; Jeff Moran, LB; Michael Penix, TB; Brad Penny, WR/P; Chris Reid, G; Brad Simmons, S; Scott Trent, TE; Adam Wright, DE.
Strengths: Penix is the league's top returning rusher, and he could be even better now that backfield mate Willie Queen is gone. A defense that was young in 1994 should be more mature in '95.
Weaknesses: Quarterback is a huge question mark with the loss of 1,900-yard passer Mike Jones. The schedule provides no breaks.
Outlook: Tech slipped from 8-3 in 1993 to 5-6 last year, which means Ragland has some repair work to do on the team's attitude. The Golden Eagles have talent, but getting into the upper division of this league will be tough.
Schedule: Campbellsville (Ky.), Aug. 31; at Marshall, Sept. 9; at Samford, Sept. 16; Eastern Kentucky, Sept. 23; at UT Martin, Sept. 30; at Southeast Missouri, Oct. 7; Austin Peay, Oct. 14; at Morehead State, Oct. 21; Murray State, Oct. 28; at Tennessee State, Nov. 4; Middle Tennessee St., Nov. 11.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.
Nickname: Golden Eagles. **Site:** Cookeville, Tenn.

6. MURRAY STATE

Coach: Houston Nutt (9-13, 2 years).
1994 record: 5-6 OVC: 4-4/4th.
Top players: Mike Cherry, QB; Chad Gann, LB; William Hampton, DB; Anthony Hutch, DE; David McCann, FB; Ronnie Merritt, LB; Mike Ruppe, C; Tim Scarborough, TB; Xavier Shepherd, TE; Reginald Swinlon, WR.
Strengths: Cherry, a transfer from Arkansas, emerged in the spring as a capable quarterback. The athleticism on the offensive line appears to be better than ever. Hampton leads a defense that returns 10 starters.
Weaknesses: With just five starters back, the offense will have to be rebuilt. Depth remains a problem despite the return of 56 lettermen. The team will have to gel quickly with four of the first five games on the road.
Outlook: Nutt's positive attitude helped to coax the Racers to a 4-4 OVC record last season, but only one of the victories came against a team with a winning conference record.
Schedule: at Western Kentucky, Sept. 2; at Southern Illinois, Sept. 9; Southeast Missouri State, Sept. 16; at Middle Tennessee State, Sept. 23; at Austin Peay, Sept. 30; UT Martin, Oct. 7; Morehead State, Oct. 14; at Tennessee Tech, Oct. 28; Eastern Kentucky, Nov. 4; at Tennessee State, Nov. 11; Western Illinois, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.
Nickname: Racers. **Site:** Murray, Ky.

7. AUSTIN PEAY

Coach: Roy Gregory (13-31, 4 years).
1994 record: 4-7 OVC: 3-5/6th.
Top players: Jacob Dickson, FB; Jeff Gooch, FS; Steven Haywood, OL; Chris Horton, RB; Kirk Porter, CB; Tyrone Shorter, DB; Michael Swift, DB; Marcus Watkins, DL; Daniel Williams, QB; Thomas Williams, LB.
Strengths: For the first time in his four years, Gregory has depth: 10 starters return on each side of the ball. A senior class that is 16 strong should provide leadership. The schedule, with the first six games at home, affords some slack.
Weaknesses: Starting quarterback Daniel Williams missed spring practice while recovering from knee surgery. Several players on defense are switching positions. The Governors still are behind the league's top teams in overall talent.
Outlook: Last season, Austin Peay improved three games from 1993. Unfortunately, that meant only four wins total. The Governors will need a lot of breaks if they are to duplicate that jump this season.
Schedule: Eastern Illinois, Aug. 31; Samford, Sept. 9; Western Kentucky, Sept. 16; Southeast Missouri State, Sept. 23; Murray State, Sept. 30; Middle Tennessee State, Oct. 7; at Tennessee Tech, Oct. 14; Tennessee State, Oct. 21; at Morehead State, Oct. 28; at Eastern Kentucky, Nov. 11; at UT Martin, Nov. 18.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.
Nickname: Governors. **Site:** Clarksville, Tenn.

8. UT MARTIN

Coach: Don McLeary (45-57, 9 years; 54-85 overall, 11 years).
1994 record: 5-6 OVC: 2-6/8th.
Top players: James Brown, CB; LaShone Brown, DE; Brad Godwin, DT; Lenny Harris, WR; Jason Johnson, RB; Preston Jones, SS; Todd Mather, QB; Kevin Mawyer, DT.
Strengths: With 38 lettermen and 18 starters back, there is depth for a change. Godwin was an impact player in his first year, and for the first time in awhile, there is a definite starter at quarterback (Mather) going into the fall.
Weaknesses: Plenty of starters return on offense, but we're talking about an offense that ranked eighth in the league in yards per game and seventh in scoring.
Outlook: McLeary is preaching to his players that this is the season they will turn the corner after four years of struggling since moving up from Division II. But unless significant improvements come on both sides of the ball, the only change at UT Martin will be its new "Skyhawks" nickname.
Schedule: Bethel College (Tenn.), Sept. 7; at Eastern Illinois, Sept. 16; at Morehead State, Sept. 23; Tennessee Tech, Sept. 30; at Murray State, Oct. 7; Tennessee State, Oct. 14; at Eastern Kentucky, Oct. 21; Southeast Missouri State, Oct. 28; at Middle Tennessee State, Nov. 4; Samford, Nov. 11; Austin Peay, Nov. 18.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.
Nickname: Skyhawks. **Site:** Martin, Tenn.

9. MOREHEAD STATE

Coach: Matt Ballard (0-11, 1 year; 35-38-1 overall, 7 years).
1994 record: 0-11 OVC: 0-8/9th.
Top players: Chris Berry, RB/WR; J.P. Blair, QB; Stuart Cook, OL; Cliff Freeman, DB; Carl Mack, DB; Mackenzie McKnight, DL; Scott Marsh, LB; Todd Neace, OL.
Strengths: There aren't many. Ballard does have an infectious attitude, and if anyone can make something out of nothing, it's him.
Weaknesses: They're everywhere. The Eagles who do return are not of OVC-caliber, and there is very little depth.
Outlook: When the school's administration decided to cut scholarships and de-emphasize football, it assured the Eagles of a last-place finish in the league. Last year, Morehead gave up 454 more points than it scored. That differential won't improve this season.
Schedule: Kentucky Wesleyan, Sept. 7; Middle Tennessee State, Sept. 16; UT Martin, Sept. 23; Charleston Southern, Sept. 30; at Tennessee State, Oct. 7; at Murray State, Oct. 14; Tennessee Tech, Oct. 21; Austin Peay, Oct. 28; at Southeast Missouri, Nov. 4; at Eastern Kentucky, Nov. 18.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.
Nickname: Eagles. **Site:** Morehead, Ky.

Text by Tony Pettis.

Lemon doesn't feel squeezed by heavy workload at Bucknell

By BILL DOYLE

Bucknell tailback Rich Lemon may be too good for his own good. Lemon is so productive that Bison coaches get the urge to give him the ball on nearly every rushing play. That could be dangerous to Lemon's health, considering he is only 5-foot-8 and 161 pounds.

But during his first two seasons on the Lewisburg, Pa., campus, Lemon hasn't felt the squeeze of the heavy workload. In fact, he's thrived, rushing 494 times for 2,647 yards, just two yards shy of the school's all-time record held by Brian Henesey. But the Bucknell brass still is concerned about running its mighty mite into the ground.

"It's a constant controversy," Bison running backs coach Dick Reilly said. "How many times do you run Rich? He's the best guy we have, he's the best guy in the league, and he makes it happen. Then you kind of kick yourself and say, 'Well, we just can't keep giving him the ball all the time.'"

Bucknell doesn't give Lemon the ball all the time—but almost. In 1994, Lemon ran 282 times for 1,496 yards (both school records). His rushing total accounted for 83 percent of Bucknell's ground game and he led the Bison with 11 touchdowns. When he isn't taking handoffs, Lemon is catching passes (a team-high 42 for 368 yards in '94). His 1,880 all-purpose yards last season were four shy of another Bucknell single-season record. No wonder he was named Patriot League Offensive Player of the Year and co-Most Valuable Player.

"You're in a crucial situation and you need something to happen," Reilly said. "Who are you going to give the ball to—the fullback, who runs five-flat and falls down after three yards, or Rich, who is going to take it all the way?"

"We argue about it, but he's the man. There's no way getting around it. He's the guy we have to go to."

And that suits Lemon fine.

"I'm willing to run the ball as many times as they want," said Lemon, who carried 212 times for 1,151 yards as a freshman. "If it's 50, I'll run 50. If it's three, I may not be happy about it, but I'll run three. All I'm worried about is winning."

But victories have been scarce at Bucknell. Despite Lemon's heroics in 1994, the Bison finished 5-6 and tied for fourth in the non-scholarship Patriot League. After posting just one winning season in six campaigns, Lou Maranzana was replaced as coach by Tom Gadd, formerly the defensive coordinator at San Jose State. Lemon is confident things will improve.

"I said it last year and I'll say it again," he said. "I think we can take home the title."

That would be quite a feat, considering Bucknell never has won the league championship. In fact, Bucknell has had just three winning seasons since 1975. Regardless, Lemon will do his share and more, just like last season, when his 136 rushing yards per



OF RMA COOP

Rich Lemon's ability to accelerate quickly sets the Bucknell star apart from other runners.

game ranked sixth in Division I-AA. Additionally, he has a string of 15 consecutive games with at least 100 yards rushing, five short of the I-AA record held by Nevada-Reno's Frank Hawkins (1979-80).

"He's the best running back we've had since I've been here," said Reilly, who has been at Bucknell since 1985. "There's nobody that compares to him. He's in his own class. We've had some real good Patriot League running backs (including Henesey, a rookie free agent with the Arizona Cardinals last season who has since signed with Philadelphia), but Rich is special."

It's not Lemon's speed that separates him from the rest. Reilly insists other Bison could beat Lemon over 50 or 100 yards. "But no one's going to beat him in 20 yards," Reilly said. "He's got an unbelievable ability to accelerate quickly. That's the key to his success."

That and his ability to make defenders miss. Lemon credits the off-beat drills his oldest brother, Eddie, put him through as a kid, when he had Rich run around trees and chase rabbits.

"He also wanted me to put heavy boots on and run, but I never did that," said Lemon, who graduated from McKinley High School in Niles, Ohio.

As it turned out, he didn't need to use the boots to develop quickness—he already was swift.

"Sometimes we watch film on Sundays," Reilly said, "and I'm absolutely amazed at the things he does. Here he is in traffic, it looks like 20 guys are jumping him and, bing, he's out in the open field running." ♦

Bill Doyle is a sportswriter for the Worcester (Mass.) Telegram & Gazette.

PATRIOT

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. LEHIGH
2. LAFAYETTE
3. HOLY CROSS
4. COLGATE
5. BUCKNELL
6. FORDHAM

ALL-PATRIOT TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	BRIAN KLINGERMAN, Lehigh	5-7/165	Sr.
WR	TRAMONT EVANS, Lafayette	6-2/175	Sr.
TE	GLENN HUNZINGER, Lafayette	6-3/250	Sr.
T	TOM CLARO, Holy Cross	6-5/300	Sr.
T	MIKE ZIMROWSKI, Holy Cross	6-4/285	Jr.
G	STEVE BORYS, Fordham	6-3/265	Sr.
G	JEREMY SWEENEY, Lafayette	6-3/250	Sr.
C	CORY BAILEY, Fordham	6-3/272	Soph.
QB	BOB AYLSWORTH, Lehigh	6-0/180	Sr.
RB	RICH LEMON, Bucknell	5-8/161	Jr.
RB	RABIH ABDULLAH, Lehigh	6-1/195	Jr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
E	ED BURMAN, Bucknell	6-4/230	Sr.
T	GAVIN MORRISSEY, Lafayette	6-2/250	Sr.
E	DOMINIC BLUE, Holy Cross	6-1/235	Soph.
LB	CHRIS YOUNG, Colgate	6-1/206	Jr.
LB	RAWLE HOWARD, Lafayette	6-2/210	Sr.
LB	DAVID STREETER, Holy Cross	6-2/220	Jr.
LB	TOM MORRELLI, Colgate	5-11/184	Sr.
CB	MARCUS CAMERON, Colgate	6-0/166	Jr.
CB	MARK MILLER, Bucknell	5-10/173	Sr.
S	MATT COPE, Lafayette	6-2/195	Sr.
S	B.J. GALLIS, Lafayette	6-3/205	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
K	MIKE SWARTZ, Lehigh	5-10/170	Sr.
P	RICH MILLER, Bucknell	6-1/200	Jr.
KR	LARRY LEITH, Fordham	5-9/160	Soph.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

RICH LEMON
RB, Bucknell



DEFENSE:

RAWLE HOWARD
LB, Lafayette

PATRIOT LEAGUE TEAM CHARTS

1. LEHIGH

Coach: Kevin Higgins (5-5-1, 1 year).

1994 record: 5-5-1 Patriot 3-2/T2nd.

Top players: Rabin Abdullah, RB; Bob Aylsworth, QB; Chris Bauer, OL; Lance Eckenrode, LB; Brian Klingerman, WR; Mark Miller, DB; Jason Streeter, WR; David Sunderland, DL; Mike Swartz, K; Ben Talbot, P.
Strengths: Aylsworth, who threw for 2,537 yards and 22 touchdowns last season, is the league's best quarterback. His 63.8 completion percentage was the best ever at Lehigh, a school known for throwing the football. Klingerman led the league with 71 catches for 1,135 yards, and Abdullah ran for 915 yards. Three starters return on the offensive line. Swartz and Talbot are among the league's best kickers.

Weaknesses: The Engineers have only three starters back on defense. They're especially inexperienced on the line and at linebacker. The non-league schedule includes a game at Army and two against Yankee Conference schools. Patriot League teams were no match for non-league foes (5-29-1) last year.

Outlook: The Engineers should score plenty of points—and so should the opposition. In other words, this should be a typical Lehigh team. The league title should come down to the season-ending Lehigh-Lafayette game, as it has for the past three years, with the home team winning each time. The Engineers host this year's game.

Schedule: at Army, Sept. 9; at Colgate, Sept. 16; Yale, Sept. 23; New Hampshire, Sept. 30; at Bucknell, Oct. 7; at Columbia, Oct. 14; Cornell, Oct. 21; at Massachusetts, Oct. 28; at Fordham, Nov. 4; Holy Cross, Nov. 11; Lafayette, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Engineers. **Site:** Bethlehem, Pa.

2. LAFAYETTE

Coach: Bill Russo (84-66-3, 14 years; 99-79-3 overall, 17 years).

1994 record: 5-6 Patriot 5-0/1st.

Top players: Dan Bengel, LB; Tadi Chattman, CB; Matt Cope, FS; Tramont Evans, WR; B.J. Galis, SS; Rawle Howard, LB; Glenn Hunzinger, TE; Shawn McHale, QB; Gavin Morrissey, DT; Jarrell Shine, TB; Jeremy Sweeney, G.
Strengths: After throwing eight interceptions (three of which were returned for touchdowns) in his first two starts, McHale seemed to get better with each game he played. He was picked off only once more the rest of the season and threw for 1,845 yards and 12 touchdowns. Evans (22.6 yards per reception) was the league's top deep threat. Howard, the league's leading tackler, and Bengel lead a talented group of linebackers. The entire secondary returns, including Cope, the league's second-leading tackler.

Weaknesses: The Leopards must replace Erik Marsh, the league's all-time leading rusher, and Jason McLaughlin, the highest-scoring kicker in school history. No returning back rushed for more than 94 yards last season. Shine, who caught 34 passes as a flanker in '94, has been switched to tailback. There's only one returning starter on each line.

Outlook: Lafayette, as usual, should be in the thick of the league race. The Leopards have been the dominant team in the league the past three years (13-1-1, with two titles) and Russo knows how to get it done. His 14 years at Lafayette is nearly double the combined tenures of the league's other five coaches.

Schedule: at Buffalo, Sept. 9; at Hofstra, Sept. 16; Pennsylvania, Sept. 23; Columbia, Sept. 30; at Dartmouth, Oct. 7; at Princeton, Oct. 14; at Holy Cross, Oct. 21; at Bucknell, Oct. 28; Colgate, Nov. 4; Fordham, Nov. 11; at Lehigh, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Leopards. **Site:** Easton, Pa.

3. HOLY CROSS

Coach: Peter Vaas (12-21, 4 years; 41-32-1 overall, 7 years).

1994 record: 3-8 Patriot 3-2/T2nd.

Top players: Dominic Blue, DE; Tom Claro, OT; Eric Godlewski, LB; Dan Guden, LB; Jeff Laboranti, FL; John Myers, SE; Brian Regan, NG; David Streeter, LB; Chad Vaughn, QB; J.R. Walz, TB; Mike Zimrowski, OT.
Strengths: The Crusaders couldn't stop the run last sea-



HOLY CROSS
Holy Cross offensive tackle Tom Claro.

son (they allowed 248.4 rushing yards per game), but they should do better this year with their entire defensive line and linebacking corps returning. Streeter is one of the league's best linebackers. Claro, a 6-foot-5, 300-pound senior, leads an experienced line that should open holes for Walz, the league's co-rookie of the year (712 yards) last season.

Weaknesses: The Rams have no quarterback who has started a varsity game. Vaughn, a junior, is the front-runner, but he saw limited duty last season. Holy Cross also must find a kicker to replace Anthony Pignio, a four-time all-league selection and the school's all-time leader in field goals. The entire secondary has graduated, and the receiving corps lacks a deep threat.

Outlook: If Vaas can find a quarterback, this could be his best team since 1992, when the Crusaders went 6-5 in Vaas' first year at his alma mater. The Crusaders lack speed at the skill positions, but Vaas likes to play tough defense and a grind-it-out offense, anyway.

Schedule: Hofstra, Sept. 9; at Massachusetts, Sept. 16; at Cornell, Sept. 23; Brown, Sept. 30; Yale, Oct. 7; at Harvard, Oct. 14; Lafayette, Oct. 21; Fordham, Oct. 28; at Bucknell, Nov. 4; at Lehigh, Nov. 11; Colgate, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1993.

Nickname: Crusaders. **Site:** Worcester, Mass.

4. COLGATE

Coach: Ed Sweeney (6-15-1, 2 years; 62-38-4 overall, 10 years).

1994 record: 3-8 Patriot 2-3/T4th.

Top players: Marcus Cameron, CB; Anthony Caravetta, RB; Jack Durkin, OT; J.J. Hope, WR; Joe Kaszyna, DE; Tom Kim, LB; Mark Lindell, QB; Tom Morelli, LB/P; Jon O'Flynn, TE; Jamal Patterson, RB; Ian Prisuta, QB; Daymon Smith, RB; Chris Young, LB.

Strengths: Smith, who missed last season after blowing out his anterior cruciate ligament on his first carry, returns to bolster a talented running corps. He was the Red Raiders' second-leading rusher as a freshman in '93. Caravetta and Patterson are quick tailbacks. O'Flynn is one of the league's best tight ends. Morelli, a second-team all-league pick, leads a talented linebacking corps, which is bolstered by Kim, a transfer from Arizona. Cameron, an all-league cornerback, has eight interceptions in the past two years.

Weaknesses: Both lines were hit hard by graduation and will be inexperienced. Durkin is the only returnee on the offensive line, Kaszyna the only one on the defensive line. There's no experience at quarterback, either. Lindell, a

sophomore, will battle Prisuta, a senior who was expected to start last season but hurt his shoulder lifting weights in pre-season workouts.

Outlook: This is Colgate's deepest, fastest team in years. Sweeney's teams have won only three games in each of his first two seasons at Colgate, but this figures to be his best team. If the line develops, the Red Raiders should score more points and could be a factor in the league race.

Schedule: at Northeastern, Sept. 9; Lehigh, Sept. 16; Harvard, Sept. 23; Princeton, Sept. 30; Fordham, Oct. 7; at Brown, Oct. 14; at Dartmouth, Oct. 21; at Army, Oct. 28; at Lafayette, Nov. 4; Bucknell, Nov. 11; at Holy Cross, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1993.

Nickname: Red Raiders. **Site:** Hamilton, N.Y.

5. BUCKNELL

Coach: Tom Gadd (1st year).

1994 record: 5-6 Patriot 2-3/T4th.

Top players: Rob Bird, LB; Ed Burman, DE; Charlie Crutcher, DB; Jason Donkers, OL; Brian Gay, OT; Rich Lemon, TB; Mark Miller, CB; Rich Miller, P/K; Steve Noteboom, WR; Mike Phillips, WR; John Sakowski, WR.

Strengths: Lemon, the league's most exciting player, ran for a school-record 1,496 yards and caught a team-high 42 passes last season. Phillips, Sakowski and Noteboom are competent receivers. Burman led a school record with 11 sacks last fall. Miller, a two-time all-league selection, heads an experienced secondary.

Weaknesses: The Bison doesn't have a quarterback returning who threw a pass in 1994. The top candidates are pocket passers with limited mobility. Bucknell also lacks experience on both lines, at tight end and at linebacker.

Outlook: Gadd has stressed weightlifting and conditioning more than his predecessor Lou Maranzana. The off-season work will have to pay off for the Bison to move up in the standings.

Schedule: Southern Connecticut State, Sept. 9; at Fordham, Sept. 16; at Princeton, Sept. 23; at Pennsylvania, Sept. 30; Towson State, Oct. 7; Cornell, Oct. 14; at Lehigh, Oct. 21; Lafayette, Oct. 28; at Holy Cross, Nov. 4; Colgate, Nov. 11; at Army, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Bison. **Site:** Lewisburg, Pa.

6. FORDHAM

Coach: Nick Quarataro (0-11, 1 year; 12-19 overall, 3 years).

1994 record: 0-11 Patriot 0-5/6th.

Top players: Cory Bailey, C; Carl Barbera, DT; Steve Borys, G; Barry Cantrell, P; Calvin Hargrove, WR; Leos Kennedy, DB; Larry Leth, WR/KR; Joe Moorhead, QB; Chris O'Leary, DB; Andre Robinson, RB; Randy Zingo, TE.

Strengths: The Rams return nine offensive starters, but some may consider that a weakness considering Fordham averaged only 13.3 points last year. Moorhead, a 6-foot-6 left-hander, is on target to set school records for career pass attempts, completions and yardage. Nine wide receivers caught at least one pass last year, and all return. Also back is Hargrove, who led Fordham in receiving two years ago but missed last season after breaking his ankle.

Weaknesses: Pull up a chair. The Rams averaged only 51 yards on the ground last fall and figure to struggle again. They may not have much success stopping the run, either, since three of their four starting linemen and all of their starting linebackers have departed. The Rams hope someone develops to help out Barbera, their leading returning tackler. The Rams lack a proven kicker, too.

Outlook: The Rams can't get any worse than last year, when they posted their first winless season since 1946 and set a school record for losses. Fordham has struggled since jumping to Division I-AA in 1989 (7-53 overall; 2-23 in the league). A win or two in 1995 isn't outside the realm of possibility, but anything more would be a big surprise.

Schedule: at Buffalo, Sept. 2; Marist, Sept. 9; Bucknell, Sept. 16; Dartmouth, Sept. 23; at Harvard, Sept. 30; at Colgate, Oct. 7; Hofstra, Oct. 14; Richmond, Oct. 21; at Holy Cross, Oct. 28; Lehigh, Nov. 4; at Lafayette, Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Rams. **Site:** Bronx, N.Y.

Text by Bill Doyle

No longer a football 'employee,' Butler's Mickens piles up yardage

By MARK MONTIETH

Arnold Mickens has made his statement. Mickens spoke loudly and clearly last season when he led the NCAA in rushing, churning out numbers only a calculator could digest. Mickens, a tailback at Butler, gained 2,255 yards on 409 carries (5.5 yards per carry), scored 18 touchdowns and surpassed 200 yards in eight consecutive games, with a peak of 295 yards on 56 carries against Valparaiso.

Mickens broke or tied 14 Division I-AA marks along the way, not only establishing the I-AA single-season rushing yardage record but also recording the third-highest NCAA total of all time, behind only Barry Sanders (2,628 in 1988) and Marcus Allen (2,342 in 1981).

It all added up to a bold-faced rebuttal to Indiana Coach Bill Mallory, who refused to let Mickens fulfill his dream of playing running back when he was with the Hoosiers.

Mickens, an all-state running back and linebacker from Broad Ripple High School (David Letterman's high school) in Indianapolis, was redshirted at Indiana in 1991, and played several positions for the scout team. Mickens, who is 6-foot and 220 pounds, agreed to play linebacker in 1992 because it offered an immediate opportunity for playing time. But he never really liked it. He started one game in 1992, and finished the season with 34 tackles and one sack. But his playing time declined in 1993 and he became increasingly frustrated over not getting a chance to prove himself at his favorite position.

"He (Mallory) told me four times that I wasn't good enough to run the ball in his program," Mickens said. "That's something that will never leave me. I hear it all the time in my head—'You're not good enough. You're not good enough.'"

Mallory said he simply believed Mickens was better suited to play linebacker than running back in the Big Ten. Besides, he had a capable runner last season in Alex Smith, who gained a Big Ten freshman-record 1,475 yards.

Mickens, therefore, turned his attention to Butler, a private school of 4,200 students in Indianapolis that does not award football scholarships.

Transferring represented a major sacrifice for Mickens. Not only did he give up a full scholarship at Indiana, he had to take out loans that will leave him about \$12,000 in debt when he finishes college. But Mickens is someone who perseveres. After all, he fought to gain legal custody of his 4-year-old twin sons. Indeed, with his education and his children in mind, he said football became almost an afterthought.

"When I transferred, I was so unhappy I wasn't thinking about football anymore; I was just thinking about academics," said Mickens, who was named to the Big Ten All-Academic team in 1992. "I just wanted to settle down. I wasn't sure how much I loved



BOB SARTY

Unable to prove himself as a runner at Indiana, Arnold Mickens has blossomed at Butler.

the game anymore."

Mickens, who led Butler to a 7-3 record and a share of the Pioneer Football League title in 1994, won back his love for the game with the Bulldogs. He said his status—free of a scholarship that would make him an employee of the football program—provided him with the freedom and independence that allowed his love to take root.

That's why he said he harbors no jealousy toward those college players who are on scholarship and enjoy the perks of major college athletics.

"I've got everything they've got," said Mickens, who is on schedule to receive a degree in Corporate and Public Communications in December. "They're getting paid, I'm getting financial aid and loans. They've got crowds, we've got crowds. They get publicity, I get publicity."

"They're obligated to lift, run, sweat—off-season, during the season, spring ball. That's too much just for tuition. The route I took is a much better route than what they've taken."

That's not to say Mickens didn't lift, run and sweat during the off-season. He called his workouts this year the best of his career, and said his devotion to the game is at an all-time high.

It will need to be. Butler lost its entire offensive line to graduation, so Mickens will be working behind an untested group. But if his rushing totals decrease this season, he'll find other measures of success.

"Last season is over," he said. "Now I have to deal with this upcoming season. I want to have a more productive season, but that doesn't necessarily mean getting more yards."

"With us having a young team, I just want us to come together and be as good a team as we can." ♦

Mark Montieth covers college sports for the Indianapolis News.

PIONEER

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. DAYTON
2. BUTLER
3. DRAKE
4. SAN DIEGO
5. VALPARAISO
6. EVANSVILLE

ALL-PIONEER TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	EVAN HAVACEK, San Diego	5-11/170	Jr
WR	RICK HOSKINS, Drake	6-0/194	Sr
TE	MATT HAUSFELD, Dayton	6-2/218	Sr
T	MATT JONES, Drake	6-5/228	Jr
T	JEFF DURHAM, Evansville	6-4/245	Sr
G	EVAN FITZGERALD, Valparaiso	6-2/243	Jr
G	BRADY WOLFER, Dayton	6-2/245	Sr
C	TONY YEN CHECK, Dayton	5-11/224	Sr
QB	ERIC FISH, Evansville	6-2/180	Sr
RB	ARNOLD MICKENS, Butler	6-0/220	Sr
RB	JERMAINE RUCKER, San Diego	5-10/195	Jr

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
E	ERIC MILLER, Valparaiso	6-3/250	Sr
T	TROY OUEL, Dayton	6-1/240	Sr
E	RODNEY ARNOLD, Evansville	6-4/245	Sr
LB	JOSH BERNING, Valparaiso	6-2/211	Sr
LB	MATT GARVIS, Drake	6-3/230	Sr
LB	MARTIN LONGAR, Dayton	6-0/210	Sr
LB	ADAM BRUGGENSEN, Evansville	6-4/205	Sr
CB	TOM BOECKER, Drake	5-11/165	Sr
CB	MATT DETERS, Dayton	6-0/190	Sr
S	JAMES DUNCAN, Evansville	6-4/220	Sr
S	DOUG POPOVICH, San Diego	6-1/185	Sr

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	MATT YOUNG, San Diego	6-0/178	Sr
P	JASON BROWER, Dayton	6-1/180	Sr
KR	OZZIE YOUNG, Valparaiso	5-7/171	Sr

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

ARNOLD MICKENS
RB, Butler



DEFENSE:

DOUG POPOVICH
S, San Diego

PIONEER

PIONEER TEAM CHARTS

1. DAYTON

Coach: Mike Kelly (136-25-1, 14 years).

1994 record: 8-2 Pioneer 4-1/T1st.

Top players: Jason Brower, P; Britton Crates, QB; Matt Delers, S; Matt Hausfeld, TE; Pat Hugar, TB/WR; Martin Loncar, LB; Tom Loncar, DB; Benji Miller, FB; Troy Ouhl, DT; Josh Schwachow, TB; Brady Wolter, G/T; Tony Yenichack, C.

Strengths: A strong stable of runners (headed by Miller) and receivers will shine if the Flyers' reshuffled offensive line gets the job done for senior option quarterbacks Crates and Brian Kadel. The secondary has plenty of talent and experience.

Weaknesses: Four defensive linemen are first-time starters. There is no experienced kicker in the wake of Tim Duvic's graduation.

Outlook: Expect a typical, well-disciplined Dayton team with a renewed emphasis on the option attack. Progress of the line holds the key to success for the defense, and one of the quarterbacks must take control.

Schedule: Albany (N.Y.) State, Sept. 2; San Diego, Sept. 9; Towson State, Sept. 16; at Wisconsin-Platteville, Sept. 23; Georgetown (Ky.), Sept. 30; Butler, Oct. 14; at Drake, Oct. 21; Valparaiso, Oct. 28; at Evansville, Nov. 4; West Virginia State, Nov. 11; at Wolford, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Flyers. **Site:** Dayton, Ohio.

2. BUTLER

Coach: Ken LaRose (19-11, 3 years).

1994 record: 7-3 Pioneer 4-1/T1st.

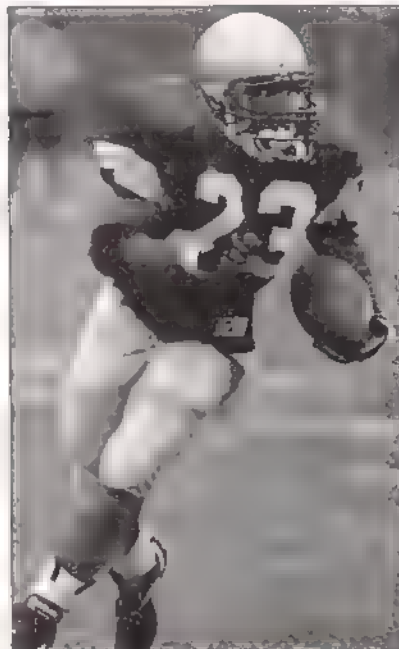
Top players: Lou Andreadis, RB; Ron Gnswoold, NT; Craig Hauser, DB; Jason Hoffman, DB; Toby Jacobs, QB; Arnold Mickens, RB; Damon Moore, DB; Jim Pilo, WR; Ryan Pops, LB; Ryan Vermilion, DT.

Strengths: The durable Mickens, who averaged 40 carries per game last season, will try to surpass his Division I-AA record of 2,255 yards rushing in a season. The defense may be better despite some graduation losses.

Weaknesses: The entire offensive line (including the tight end) is new to starting duty, and so is the fullback. The Bulldogs also have an untested punter and kicker.

Outlook: Butler must get some significant contributions from newcomers to contend for the title again, but don't underestimate the Mickens factor.

Schedule: Howard Payne, Sept. 2; at Towson State, Sept. 9; at Marik, Sept. 16; Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Sept. 23; Drake, Sept. 30; Valparaiso, Oct. 7; at Dayton, Oct. 14.



Valparaiso running back Ozzie Young.

Thomas More (Ky.), Oct. 21; at Evansville, Oct. 28; at San Diego, Nov. 4.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Bulldogs. **Site:** Indianapolis.

3. DRAKE

Coach: Rob Ash (77-50-3, 8 years, 90-56-4 overall, 8 years).

1994 record: 7-3 Pioneer 3-2/3rd.

Top players: Tom Boecker, QB; Roy Fletcher, QB; Matt Garvin, LB; Rich Hoskins, WR; Cortez Hult, RB; Matt Jones, OT; Kerman Mason, CB; Charlie Schumberg, RB.

Strengths: Most of the offensive starters, including Fletcher (1,619 yards passing, 13 touchdowns) and Schumberg (818 yards as a freshman), have plenty of experience and should come together to give the Bulldogs the scoring punch they lacked last season.

Weaknesses: The defensive line, the strength of the 1994 team, will have an entirely new cast and is of major concern to Ash, as is the kicking game.

Outlook: Drake should be competitive again, but the Bulldogs have many holes to fill. Major contributions from newcomers and a bit of luck will be needed to have a shot at the title.

Schedule: Missouri Western, Sept. 2; at St. Ambrose, Sept. 9; at Wisconsin-LaCrosse, Sept. 16; Aurora, Sept. 23; at Butler, Sept. 30; Evansville, Oct. 7; at Valparaiso, Oct. 14; Dayton, Oct. 21; at San Diego, Oct. 28; Northwestern College (Wis.), Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Bulldogs. **Site:** Des Moines, Iowa.

4. SAN DIEGO

Coach: Brian Fogarty (66-48-3, 12 years).

1994 record: 6-4 Pioneer 2-3/T4th.

Top players: Buddy Brown, DL; Curtis DeMers, LB; Jeb Dougherty, DB; Sean Grove, DB; Evan Hlavacek, WR/RB; Kujanga Jackson, DB; Billy Kobayashi, DB; Doug Popovich, SS; Jermaine Rucker, FB; Scott Steingrebe, TE; Matt Young, K.

Strengths: A veteran defense, featuring Popovich and Dougherty, could be very strong; Popovich is one of the best in the nation. Rucker (1,332 yards, 6.8-yard average, 13 touchdowns) and Hlavacek have the ability to burn opposing defenses, but they may not have enough help.

Weaknesses: With all-league selection Vince Moiso no longer around, the Toreros lack an experienced quarterback. The offensive line is young. The kicking game could be a liability if Young elects not to use his last year of eligibility.

Outlook: Any challenge for the league crown must be accomplished with defense because the inexperienced offense figures to lack consistency.

Schedule: Chico State, Sept. 2; at Dayton, Sept. 9; at California Lutheran, Sept. 23; at Valparaiso, Sept. 30; Azusa Pacific, Oct. 7; at Evansville, Oct. 14; at Redlands, Oct. 21; Drake, Oct. 28; Butler, Nov. 4; Wagner, Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Toreros. **Site:** San Diego.

5. VALPARAISO

Coach: Tom Horne (17-43-1, 6 years; 43-74-2 overall, 12 years).

1994 record: 7-3 Pioneer 2-3/T4th.

Top players: Josh Bering, LB; Nick Browder, QB; Evan Fitzgerald, OG; John Harrington, DL; Darryl Jackson, TE; Matt Kulp, DL; Eric Miller, DE; Andre Murphy, CB; Ronnie Sazone, CB; Ozzie Young, RB/KR.

Strengths: Browder, a threat both as a passer and runner, may be the best athlete in the league. Young will provide firepower from the backfield and also as a kick returner. Bering is a solid defender. The special teams could be strong.

Weaknesses: Graduation took a heavy toll on both lines, and replacements are unproven. The Crusaders' punter and kicker also lack experience.

Outlook: Valparaiso gained confidence last year with a victory over Pioneer co-champion Butler and strong showings in losses to the other co-champ, Dayton, and San Diego. Still, that confidence may not be enough to overcome the inexperience in trenches.

Schedule: at St. Xavier, Sept. 9; Wisconsin-Whitewater, Sept. 16; at Kalamazoo, Sept. 23; San Diego, Sept. 30; at



San Diego safety Doug Popovich.

Butler, Oct. 7; Drake, Oct. 14; Evansville, Oct. 21, at Dayton, Oct. 28; at Aurora, Nov. 4; Kentucky Wesleyan, Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Crusaders. **Site:** Valparaiso, Ind.

6. EVANSVILLE

Coach: Robin Cooper (22-17, 4 years; 41-24 overall, 7 years).

1994 record: 4-6 Pioneer 0-5/6th.

Top players: Rodney Arnold, DE; Elmer Boeka, WR/TE; Adam Bruggenschmidt, LB/DB; Tony Davis, RB/WR; Ryan Driatta, WR; James Duncan, S; Jeff Durham, OT; Eric Fish, QB; Ed Hathaway, DE; Chad McIntyre, DB/LB; Jim Schealer, DE/LB.

Strengths: Seventeen seniors return, including Fish, the Pioneer's passing-yardage and total-offense leader for the past two years. Duncan and Bruggenschmidt are the standouts among eight returning starters on defense.

Weaknesses: Fish's top three receivers have moved on and the Purple Aces' top running back has graduated. Team speed is lacking.

Outlook: Evansville proved it could move the football the past two years, but the Aces must reduce their turnovers significantly if they expect to escape the league basement. Fish needs another big season after passing for 2,516 yards and 12 touchdowns last year.

Schedule: Kentucky Wesleyan, Sept. 2; Cumberland, Sept. 9; at Greenville, Sept. 16; at Thomas More (Ky.), Sept. 23; at Drake, Oct. 7; San Diego, Oct. 14; at Valparaiso, Oct. 21; Butler, Oct. 28; Dayton, Nov. 4; at Aurora, Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Purple Aces. **Site:** Evansville, Ind.

Text by Bucky Albers, Dayton (Ohio) Daily News.

Linebacker Coakley a big hit — but not to Mountaineers' foes

By TIM STEPHENS

Appalachian State linebacker Dexter Coakley's most crushing blow to archrival Marshall came not on the field but months before he ever played a down against the Thundering Herd.

Coakley, the reigning Southern Conference Defensive Player of the Year, has smashed running backs, sacked quarterbacks and generally wreaked havoc in league backfields for two seasons.

But if not for the timing of a college entrance exam, Coakley might have done his damage while wearing the green and white of Marshall instead of the black and gold of Appalachian State.

"It was between Appalachian State and Marshall," Coakley said of his 1992 recruiting battle. "I wasn't academically eligible and I was concentrating on getting my board scores."

Coakley was in the midst of a year at Fork Union (Va.) Military Academy, where he worked on his academics, played football and lived the life of a cadet. It was a time for Coakley to prepare himself for college. It also was a time for him to decide which school he would call his own.

Coakley had visited Appalachian State and was scheduled to visit Marshall. He earmarked a day to spend at the Huntington, W.Va., campus. But Coakley was also scheduled to take the SAT exam that same day.

"I didn't take the trip," Coakley said.

Therefore, he didn't see Marshall's new 28,000-seat stadium, or the highly equipped weight room and facilities building. And he didn't see the stadium's luxury skyboxes or the NCAA Division I-AA championship trophy the Thundering Herd had won in 1991.

"I didn't give Marshall a shot because of the SAT," said Coakley, a 5-foot-11, 205-pound junior who spurned scholarship offers from Atlantic Coast Conference schools that envisioned him as a strong safety. "Marshall didn't get a fair shot. If I had visited there, I probably would've signed there."

Instead, he signed with Appalachian State—and he has no regrets.

"In the end, Appalachian State showed me the best package," he said. "It's a good program and it's close to home (Mount Pleasant, S.C.). I like the coaches and I'm happy to be here."

And the Mountaineers are happy to have him. In 1993, Coakley was dubbed Southern Conference Freshman of the Year after recording 159 tackles, the most by a Mountaineer since 1987.

Last season, Coakley had 155 tackles (including 22 for losses), eight sacks, 11 quarterback pressures and two fumble recoveries. Perhaps the most telling stat, though, is his seven caused fumbles, the result of some of the most jarring hits in the conference.

"We know what we have in Dexter



Appalachian State's Dexter Coakley is the league's most-feared and respected defender.

Coakley," Appalachian State Coach Jerry Moore said.

Opponents know, too. Conference running backs respect—and fear—Coakley more than any other player.

"Coakley's a great player," said Marshall tailback Chris Parker, the league's top returning offensive player. "He can dominate a game by himself."

From his weakside linebacker spot, Coakley is well-suited for Appalachian State's attack-style defense. The Mountaineers run a blitzing scheme that relies on defensive backs to cover receivers man-to-man. This frees up Coakley to attack the ball.

"We have a great coaching staff that puts people in position to make plays," Coakley said. "The defensive linemen keep the offensive linemen off the linebackers, and I just run to the ball."

Coakley's stellar play carried the Mountaineers to the quarterfinals of the Division I-AA playoffs last year, where they lost to eventual national runner-up Boise State.

This season, Coakley aspires to get at least that far again—and he wants to win the Southern Conference title. The Mountaineers were well on their way to the league crown last season, but lost to then-winless VMI in the regular-season finale.

Coakley's relentless drive on the field has carried over to his off-field pursuits.

"Off the field, I hit the books," he said. "I guess I play what people think is a vicious position. But when I'm off the field, I try to be cool about everything. I respect everyone off the field the way they respect me on it."

If that's the case, Coakley has a considerable amount of respect for his fellow man. ♦

Tim Stephens covers Marshall and the Southern Conference for the Huntington (W.Va.) Herald-Dispatch.

SOUTHERN

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. MARSHALL
2. APPALACHIAN STATE
3. GEORGIA SOUTHERN
4. WESTERN CAROLINA
5. EAST TENNESSEE STATE
6. THE CITADEL
7. FURMAN
8. UT CHATTANOOGA
9. VIRGINIA MILITARY INST.

ALL-SOUTHERN TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	TERRELL OWENS, JT Chattanooga	6-3/204	Sr
WR	TIM MARTIN, Marshall	5-9/176	Jr
TE	LUTHER BROUGHTON, Furman	6-2/240	Jr
T	WILLIAM PANNELL, Marshall	6-4/306	Sr
T	BRIAN FISHER, Furman	6-2/235	Sr
■	AARON FERGUSON, Marshall	6-3/280	Jr
G	SCOTT STANSON, W. Carolina	6-1/283	Sr
C	WES GREENWELL, W. Carolina	6-5/290	Sr
QB	CHAD GREENE, W. Carolina	6-2/209	Sr
RB	CHRIS PARKER, Marshall	5-11/198	Sr
RB	THOMAS HASKINS, VMI	5-10/172	Jr

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
E	JAMES RUSSELL, E. Tennessee St.	6-3/220	Jr
T	BILLY LYON, Marshall	6-5/290	Jr
T	DEREK SUMMEROUR, W. Carolina	6-2/290	Sr
E	CHRISTOPHER J. Appa. St.	6-3/256	Sr
LB	DEXTER COAKLEY, Appalachian St.	5-11/205	Jr
LB	BRIAN STUMP, Marshall	6-0/239	Jr
LB	JOE DIBERNARDO, Appalachian St.	6-2/225	Jr
CB	MATT STEVENS, Appalachian St.	6-1/208	Sr
CB	MARCO BRADHAM, Georgia St.	5-8/168	Sr
S	ROB STOCKTON, Georgia St.	5-11/180	Sr
S	JEFF HORTON, E. Tennessee St.	6-0/190	Sr

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
K	JIM RICHTER, Furman	6-4/205	Sr
P	ALLEN GLENN, Appalachian St.	6-2/219	Jr
KR	TIM MARTIN, Marshall	5-9/176	Jr

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

CHRIS PARKER
RB, Marshall



DEFENSE:

DEXTER COAKLEY
LB, Appalachian State

SOUTHERN TEAM CHARTS

1. MARSHALL

Coach: Jim Donnan (52-18, 5 years)

1994 record: 12-2 (including 2-1 in I-AA playoffs)

Southern: 7-1, 1st

Top players: Albert Barber LB; Ricky Carter WR; B.J. Cohen DE; Melvin Cunningham CB; Aaron Ferguson, G; Olandis Gary, FB; Jayson Grayson, CB; Billy Lyon, DT; Tim Martin, WR/KR; William Pannell, OT; Chris Parker, TB; Brian Stump, LB; Jermaine Swafford, LB. Mark Zban, QB

Strengths: Parker runs behind an offensive line that returns four starters, including All-America Pannell. Martin may be the best receiver in the league. Barber and Swafford head a strong group of linebackers.

Weaknesses: For the first time in a decade, quarterback is a question mark. Two all-conference safeties must be replaced, and a fullback and a center need to be found.

Outlook: The Herd has enough talent to win the league and enough inexperience at key positions to finish as low as third. The new quarterback, most likely sophomore Larry Harris or Ohio State transfer Zban, will have his job made easier by Parker.

Schedule: at North Carolina State, Aug. 31; Tennessee Tech, Sept. 9; Georgia Southern, Sept. 18; at UT Chattanooga, Sept. 30; VMI, Oct. 7; at Western Carolina, Oct. 14; Appalachian State, Oct. 21; at The Citadel, Oct. 28; East Tennessee State, Nov. 4; at Furman, Nov. 11; Hofstra, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1994

Nickname: Thundering Herd. **Site:** Huntington, W. Va.

2. APPALACHIAN STATE

Coach: Jerry Moore (43-28, 6 years; 70-76-2 overall, 13 years)

1994 record: 9-4 (including 1-1 in I-AA playoffs). **Southern:** 6-2/2nd

Top players: Dexter Coakley LB, Jamie Coleman, DB; Joe DiBernardo, LB; Chad Groover, OL; Allen Guinn, P; Scott Kadlub, OL; Chip Miller, DL; Scott Satterfield, QB; Damon Scott, RB; Matt Stevens, CB; Jeff Vollmer, TE.

Strengths: If any position is stronger than the Mountaineers' massive offensive line, it could be the linebackers. Coakley and DiBernardo form maybe the best I-AA linebacker tandem in the nation. Stevens leads a hard-hitting secondary. Guinn is the league's best punter.

Weaknesses: A weak offense kept Appalachian State out of the nation's elite last year. Inexperience in the backfield and inconsistency at quarterback must be overcome if this team is to challenge Marshall.

Outlook: The defense is great, but offensive consistency is the key to the Mountaineers challenging Marshall for the conference title. A return to the playoffs and a Top 10 finish nationally are easily attainable goals.

Schedule: at Wake Forest, Sept. 2; Edinboro (Pa.), Sept. 9; at North Carolina A&T, Sept. 16; East Tennessee State, Sept. 30; at Furman, Oct. 7; Georgia Southern, Oct. 14; at Marshall, Oct. 21; UT Chattanooga, Oct. 28; at VMI, Nov. 4; Western Carolina, Nov. 11; at The Citadel, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1994

Nickname: Mountaineers. **Site:** Boone, N.C.

3. GEORGIA SOUTHERN

Coach: Tim Stowers (42-19, 6 years)

1994 record: 6-5. **Southern:** 5-3/T3rd

Top players: Denck Austin, CB; Marco Bradham, CB; Dexter Dawson, SE; Jamie Glover, OT; Chad Holmes, FB; Stacy Moses, OT; Kenny Robinson, QB; Roden Russell, FB; Rob Stockton, SS; Edward Thomas, DE; Marlow Warthen, RB.

Strengths: Robinson is a great athlete who accounted for 1,105 yards of total offense as a freshman last season. He has a year of experience running the flexbone and some good backs to work with in Warthen and Russell. Dawson is a fine receiver and a dangerous kick returner. Bradham and Stockton head a strong secondary.

Weaknesses: The defense got pushed around last year and must replace its linebackers and half its line. A locker also must be found.

Outlook: This isn't the same Georgia Southern program that dominated the league in the 1980s, but it's a contender nonetheless. However, having to play Marshall and Appalachian State on the road doesn't help.

Schedule: South Carolina State, Sept. 2; Middle Tennessee State (at Atlanta), Sept. 9; at Marshall, Sept.

16; UT Chattanooga, Sept. 23; Western Carolina, Oct. 7; at Appalachian State, Oct. 14; The Citadel, Oct. 21; at East Tennessee State, Oct. 28; Furman, Nov. 4; at Liberty, Nov. 11; VMI (at Norfolk, Va.), Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1993

Nickname: Eagles. **Site:** Statesboro, Ga.

4. WESTERN CAROLINA

Coach: Steve Hodgins (24-31, 5 years)

1994 record: 6-5. **Southern:** 5-3/T3rd

Top players: Donnell Brinson, CB; Jimmy Butler, OT; Brett Chappell, DB/RB; Elton Clawson, LB; Leander Dumas, DT; Chad Greene, QB; Wes Greenwell, C; David Patten, WR; Brian Roseboro, DT; Scott Stinson, G; Derek Summerour, DT.

Strengths: Greene, who passed for 1,900 yards and 15 touchdowns, is the league's top returning quarterback. He lines up behind a veteran offensive line anchored by Greenwell. Summerour and Dumas lead a tough defensive front.

Weaknesses: The league's most talented receiving corps of 1994 must be replaced. Linebacker and safety are question marks, as is fullback. The top six tacklers from last year are gone.

Outlook: The Catamounts are good enough to challenge for the league title, but they must play Georgia Southern and Appalachian State on the road. With the right breaks, Western could find itself in the playoffs.

Schedule: at Clemson, Sept. 2; Elon (N.C.), Sept. 16; The Citadel, Sept. 23; Furman, Sept. 30; at Georgia Southern, Oct. 7; Marshall, Oct. 14; at UT Chattanooga, Oct. 21; VMI, Oct. 28; at Appalachian State, Nov. 11; at East Tennessee State, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1993

Nickname: Catamounts. **Site:** Cullowhee, N.C.

5. EAST TENNESSEE STATE

Coach: Mike Cavan (16-17, 3 years; 53-39-2 overall, 9 years)

1994 record: 6-5. **Southern:** 4-4/T5th

Top players: Donnie Abraham, CB; Curtis Eason, DT; Brian Edwards, TB; Mike Fredenberg, RB; Kent Hampton, FB; Mano Hankerson, LB; Jeff Horton, SS; James Russell, DE; Greg Ryan, QB; Mike Scott, FS.

Strengths: The defense has nine starters back. Russell is the league's premier pass rusher, and Abraham is among the better cornerbacks in a conference filled with good ones. The top four running backs return, led by Edwards, who rushed for 1,021 yards last season.

Weaknesses: Those running backs need someone to block for them; only one starting offensive lineman returns. A terrific receiving corps, led by I-AA reception leader Jeff Johnson, must be replaced. Ryan must get time to pass.

Outlook: The Bucs are good enough to spoil a contender's season, but their inconsistent running game probably will keep them out of the title hunt. If some offense can be found, the defense is good enough to keep games close.

Schedule: at Troy State, Sept. 2; at Toledo, Sept. 9; at VMI, Sept. 16; at Tulsa, Sept. 23; at Appalachian State, Sept. 30; The Citadel, Oct. 7; at Furman, Oct. 21; Georgia Southern, Oct. 28; at Marshall, Nov. 4; UT Chattanooga, Nov. 11; Western Carolina, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Buccaneers. **Site:** Johnson City, Tenn.

6. THE CITADEL

Coach: Charlie Taaffe (53-37-1, 8 years)

1994 record: 6-5. **Southern:** 4-4/T5th

Top players: Scott Bekker, LB; Derek Beres, OL; John Burton, QB; Auquan Gist, SS; Garrick Haltiwanger, RB; Shawn Lyons, C; E.J. O'Neill, OL; Michael Wilkerson, OT.

Strengths: Both lines return virtually intact. Four starters are back on an offensive front that was responsible for one of the nation's strongest ground attacks out of the wishbone. Burton is smooth and Haltiwanger has big-play capability. Three starters return in the secondary.

Weaknesses: The Bulldogs' plan is to keep the ball away from opponents. They'd better, as they have little experience at linebacker. The special teams must improve.

Outlook: The Bulldogs will go as far as their offense can take them. If you like high-scoring games, you'll like The Citadel.

Schedule: Newberry (S.C.), Sept. 2; Wofford, Sept. 9; at Richmond, Sept. 16; at Western Carolina, Sept. 23; at East Tennessee State, Oct. 7; Furman, Oct. 14; at Georgia Southern, Oct. 21; Marshall, Oct. 28; at UT Chattanooga, Nov. 4; VMI, Nov. 11; Appalachian State, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1992.

Nickname: Bulldogs. **Site:** Charleston, S.C.

7. FURMAN

Coach: Bobby Johnson (3-8, 1 year)

1994 record: 3-8. **Southern:** 2-6/T7th

Top players: Brant Bonaventure, QB; Luther Broughton, TE; Brian Fisher, OT; Adrick Harrison, SE; Philly Jones, QB; Leonardo McClarty, FB; Mark Moore, TB; Jim Richter, K; Greg Sander, G; Phil Warren, DT.

Strengths: Most teams would be happy with one quarterback. Furman has two, in Jones and Bonaventure. They'll work behind a veteran line. McClarty (848 yards last season) carries on the tradition of great Furman runners, and Moore came on late in the year. Richter is an All-America candidate, and Broughton is the league's best tight end.

Weaknesses: Defense once was a Paadins hallmark, but the Furman defense has been in shambles the past two seasons. The secondary is undersized and inexperienced.

Outlook: The offense is good enough to ensure a winning season, but a suspect defense will keep Furman from contending for the league title and a playoff berth.

Schedule: at Georgia Tech, Sept. 2; at South Carolina State, Sept. 9; Wofford, Sept. 16; VMI, Sept. 23; at Western Carolina, Sept. 30; Appalachian State, Oct. 7; at The Citadel, Oct. 14; East Tennessee State, Oct. 21; at Georgia Southern, Nov. 4; Marshall, Nov. 11; at UT Chattanooga, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1990

Nickname: Paadins. **Site:** Greenville, S.C.

8. UT CHATTANOOGA

Coach: Buddy Green (3-8, 1 year)

1994 record: 3-8. **Southern:** 2-6/T7th

Top players: Antone Goldwire, LB; Mario Grier, FB; Randy Groover, DE; Andy Norman, G; Terrell Owens, WR; Jeff Peters, CB; Josh Siefert, P/K; Steve Furman, DE; Corey Wright, DE; Rusty Wright, TE.

Strengths: Experience. The Mocs took some beatings last year but grew up in the process. Peters is capable of putting up big numbers, and Owens is considered by many coaches to be the conference's best NFL prospect. Siefert is an outstanding punter.

Weaknesses: The defense has a lot of experience, but it stopped no one last year. The offensive line and secondary both are young. There's not much depth anywhere.

Outlook: The Mocs had a good recruiting year, but they're a year or two away from challenging for the league title. A middle-of-the-pack finish would be considered a success.

Schedule: Charleston Southern, Sept. 2; at Auburn, Sept. 9; Bethune-Cookman, Sept. 16; at Georgia Southern, Sept. 23; Marshall, Sept. 30; at VMI, Oct. 14; Western Carolina, Oct. 21; at Appalachian State, Oct. 28; The Citadel, Nov. 4; at East Tennessee State, Nov. 11; Furman, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1984.

Nickname: Moccasins. **Site:** Chattanooga, Tenn.

9. VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

Coach: Bill Stewart (1-10, 1 year)

1994 record: 1-10. **Southern:** 1-7/8th

Top players: Keith Braxton, OT; Kelly Cook, LB; Torre Costin, CB; Brian Giba, G; Thomas Haskins, TB; Al Lester, QB; Mike Rogers, LB; Tim Williams, WR.

Strengths: Haskins led the conference in rushing last season (1,509 yards) and Williams is a talented receiver. The offensive line returns virtually intact, as do the linebackers (led by Cook and Rogers) and most of the secondary. With 17 returning starters, there's a lot of experience.

Weaknesses: Is that experience any good? The Keydets have plenty of heart but lack the speed to stay with the league's big boys. The locking game must improve.

Outlook: The offense is good enough to keep VMI in some games. The Keydets hope to build off the momentum gained from their upset win over Appalachian State in the final game of last season, but a finish higher than seventh would be surprising.

Schedule: at Richmond, Sept. 2; Liberty, Sept. 9; East Tennessee State, Sept. 16; at Furman, Sept. 23; William & Mary, Sept. 30; at Marshall, Oct. 7; UT Chattanooga, Oct. 14; at Western Carolina, Oct. 28; Appalachian State, Nov. 4; at The Citadel, Nov. 11; Georgia Southern, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Keydets. **Site:** Lexington, Va.

Text by Tim Stephens.

SOUTHERN

McNeese State star doesn't get caught up in the numbers game

By CARL DUBOIS

A CPA could work overtime accounting for Kerry Joseph's bottom line. Dozens of college quarterbacks have better numbers, but few have his knack for winning.

Joseph has led McNeese State to the Division I-AA quarterfinals three times. The Cowboys are 28-8 with him at quarterback, including 10-3 seasons in 1993 and '94.

But on paper, Joseph is far from imposing. In fact, his career averages (35 yards rushing, 150 yards passing and 1.1 touchdown passes per game) are downright modest.

Last season, he was fifth in the Southland Conference in passing efficiency. Two years ago, Joseph's 20 touchdown passes set a school single-season record, but his rating was seventh (out of eight starting quarterbacks) in the conference.

But Joseph finishes strong. In 1994, he produced 46 percent of his total offense and 10 of his 12 touchdown passes in the last four games. He also has led the Cowboys to seven comeback victories—all in the final 2:12 of games.

"He's a competitor," McNeese Coach Bobby Keasler said. "Kerry doesn't ever believe you've beaten him, refuses to believe it."

Keasler and Joseph share common roots, as both excelled in football and track at New Iberia (La.) High. In the early 1960s, Keasler won the state championship in the half-mile and mile. Some 25 years later, Joseph won the state javelin title.

And now their success has transferred from New Iberia to Lake Charles, La. Now in his sixth year at McNeese, Keasler reached 40 victories quicker than any coach in school history.

And Joseph has won more games than any other Cowboys quarterback. Still, he is haunted by the one that got away.

In a 30-28 loss at Montana in last season's I-AA quarterfinals, Joseph threw for a career-high 283 yards. On a field that evolved from a snow blanket into a mud bowl, Joseph led three fourth-quarter touchdown drives to turn a 27-7 deficit into a 28-27 lead.

But Montana, with no timeouts, drove 57 yards in 43 seconds and won on a 37-yard field goal—into the teeth of a snow flurry—with eight seconds left.

Joseph suddenly knew the pain of the last-minute heartbreaks he'd been inflicting on opponents.

"It was a tough loss to swallow," he said. "And we've had the whole off-season to think about it. It's not any easier to accept."

Joseph spent the off-season sharpening his skills; he is focused on finally getting past the quarterfinals. He also is planning to avoid the midseason slumps of the past two seasons.

Northwestern State Coach Sam Goodwin, whose teams are 0-3 against Joseph, has seen some of Joseph's good and bad moments.

"Joseph will make two or three passes



McNeese State quarterback Kerry Joseph is known for fantastic finishes.

that look All-Pro, then he'll throw two or three that look like he just started playing the game," Goodwin said. "But he's a great athlete. Kerry could be an all-conference running back."

When McNeese struggled to defeat two Division II schools early last season, Joseph heard boos in Cowboy Stadium. After nine games, he had thrown one touchdown pass.

Keasler stood by him.

"Kerry wants to win so bad, sometimes he tries to do it all by himself," Keasler said. "That's why he had a slump. He forgot there are 10 other guys out there to help him win."

Joseph blends quickness and a sculpted, 6-foot-1, 206-pound body that routinely launches 70-yard passes. Keasler said Canadian Football League and NFL teams like Joseph's versatility.

"They can sign him as a running back and have a third-string quarterback on the roster to boot," Keasler said.

Joseph's final season promises a big payoff for McNeese. With former SLC members Northeast Louisiana and North Texas now in Division I-A, Joseph carries a 15-0 mark against the current conference line-up.

For his senior season, Joseph will be one of 19 returning starters for the Cowboys. The people of Lake Charles are daring to think about a national championship.

Joseph's ability to finish strong—over the course of a game and a season—could result into the type of finish he'd like for his career.

"Kerry's learned patience and how to take what the defense gives him," Keasler said. "The bottom line will always show that he's a winner."

Even if the numbers don't always add up. ♦

Carl Dubois covers the Southland Conference and I-AA football for the Lake Charles (La.) American Press.

SOUTHLAND

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. MCNEESE STATE
2. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN ST.
3. NORTHWESTERN STATE
4. SOUTHWEST TEXAS ST.
5. SAM HOUSTON STATE
6. NICHOLLS STATE

ALL-SOUTHLAND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	CHRIS JEFFERSON, Stephen F. Austin	6-0/205	Jr.
WR	TERENCE DAVIS, McNeese State	5-11/195	Sr.
TE	MICHAEL WARREN, McNeese State	6-3/275	Sr.
T	JOEY WYLIE, Stephen F. Austin	6-4/301	Sr.
T	MARSH BULLICE, McNeese State	6-3/285	Sr.
G	ROLAND LAVINE, McNeese State	6-2/280	Sr.
G	LEE KIRK, Stephen F. Austin	6-2/282	Sr.
C	MARCUS VORNE, McNeese State	6-5/301	Jr.
QB	KERRY JOSEPH, McNeese State	6-1/206	Jr.
RB	CLARENCE MATTHEWS, Northwestern St.	5-8/160	Jr.
RB	HENRY FIELDS, McNeese State	6-2/205	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
E	KAVIKA PITTMAN, McNeese State	6-5/235	Sr.
T	CURT ZANDER, Stephen F. Austin	6-5/280	Jr.
T	GREG BONVILLAIN, McNeese State	6-4/248	Sr.
E	DONALD MILLER, Southwest Texas	6-1/240	Sr.
LB	VINCENT LANDRUM, McNeese St.	6-2/235	Sr.
LB	CHAD REEVES, McNeese State	6-3/235	Sr.
LB	DARNELL SMALL, Nicholls State	5-10/189	Sr.
CB	JASON SPEIGHTS, Stephen F. Austin	5-9/160	Jr.
CB	DAMON GLADNEY, McNeese State	5-10/165	Sr.
S	ZACK BROXSON, McNeese State	6-1/200	Jr.
S	CHRIS WILLIS, Northwestern State	6-2/204	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

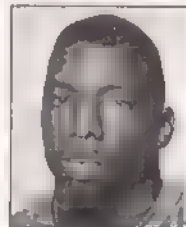
Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
K	JOSE LARIOS, McNeese State	5-6/165	Sr.
P	JEFF BRANDES, Southwest Texas	6-1/205	Sr.
KR	CLAUDE MATHIS, Southwest Texas	5-9/180	Soph

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

KERRY JOSEPH
QB, McNeese State



DEFENSE:

VINCENT LANDRUM
LB, McNeese State

SOUTHLAND TEAM CHARTS

1. McNEESE STATE

Coach: Bobby Keasler (40-20-2, 5 years)

1994 record: 10-3 (including 1-1 in I-AA playoffs)
Southland 5-1/2nd

Top players: Greg Bonvillam, DT, Zack Bronson, FS; Marsh Buice, OT; Terence Davis, WR; Henry Fields, TB; Damon Gladney, CB; Kerry Joseph, QB. Vincent Landrum, LB; Jose Lano, K; Roland Lavine, G; Kavika Pittman, DE; Chad Reeves, LB. Marcus Vidne, C; Michael Warren, TE
Strengths: Just like former teammate Terry Irving, who plays for the Arizona Cardinals, Landrum figures to be a two-time Southland Defensive Player of the Year. With Landrum, Bronson and Pittman in tow, the Cowboys have a chance to lead I-AA in total defense for the second time in three years. Joseph, who could emerge as one of I-AA's premier quarterbacks, guides the offense. Lano is a terrific kicker.
Weaknesses: It's nothing new. McNeese lacks depth and experience on the offensive line. The offense is often predictable, rarely taking advantage of Joseph's rocket arm on first down and instead handing the ball to Fields, who has a chance to pass Buford Jordan as McNeese's all-time rushing leader.

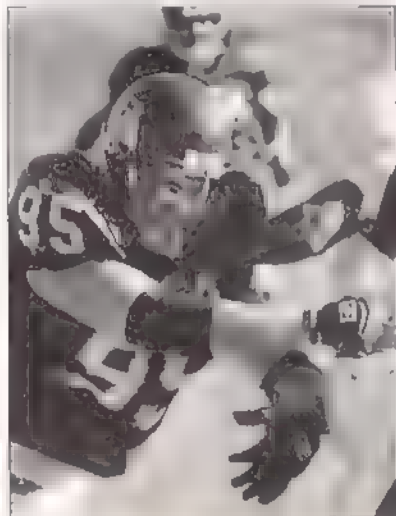
Outlook: After being eliminated from the playoffs in the quarterfinals in each of the past three seasons, the Cowboys are hungry. Another eye-opening schedule should give McNeese more playoff-type seasoning. The defense is dominating enough to carry the Cowboys to the I-AA title, but the offense must provide some token help.
Schedule: at Southwest Missouri State, Sept. 2; Abilene Christian, Sept. 9; at James Madison, Sept. 16; Youngstown State, Sept. 23; Central Florida, Sept. 30; Portland State, Oct. 14; Sam Houston State, Oct. 21; at Stephen F. Austin State, Oct. 28; at Southwest Texas State, Nov. 4; Northwestern State, Nov. 11; at Nicholls State, Nov. 18.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1994.
Nickname: Cowboys. **Site:** Lake Charles, La.

2. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE

Coach: John Pearce (17-15-2, 3 years)

1994 record: 6-3-2. Southland: 4-1-1/3rd.

Top players: Mitch Ashley, P; Kevin Goodwin, WR; Leonard Harris, RB; Chris Jefferson, WR; Lee Kirk, G; Rod Narcisse, S (transfer/Minnesota); Mikael Ricks, TE; James Ritchey, QB; Jason Speights, CB; Damien Valery, RB; Joey Wylie, OT; Clint Zander, DT.
Strengths: The Lumberjacks should be explosive. They return nine offensive starters, including big-play men Harris, Valery, Jefferson and Goodwin. Ashley is one of I-AA's most efficient punters. Ritchey is a dangerous quarterback, and Narcisse, a transfer from Minnesota, will bolster the secondary.
Weaknesses: The offensive line will miss Octus Polk, a mammoth All-America tackle, and Scott Griggs, a four-year starter at center. Three All-Southland linebackers are gone, too. Stephen F. Austin hopes true freshman Brandon Nersesian can solve its kicking woes.



Stephen F. Austin State DT Clint Zander.

Outlook: Once again, the Lumberjacks play a daunting schedule, but if assistant Rick Rhoades, the former coach at Nicholls State, can rebuild the linebacking corps. Stephen F. Austin could win its first league title since 1989.
Schedule: Northern Iowa, Sept. 2; at Youngstown State, Sept. 9; Angelo State (Texas), Sept. 16; Henderson State (Ark.), Sept. 23; at Sam Houston State, Oct. 7; Nicholls State, Oct. 14; at Samford, Oct. 21; McNeese State, Oct. 28; Southwest Texas State, Nov. 11; at Northwestern State, Nov. 18.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1993.
Nickname: Lumberjacks. **Site:** Nacogdoches, Texas

3. NORTHWESTERN STATE

Coach: Sam Goodwin (67-64-3, 12 years, 76-75-4 overall, 14 years)

1994 record: 5-6. Southland: 3-3-4th.

Top players: Jody Ferguson, OT; Joel Ferguson, G; Steve Hardaway, WR/RB; George Haynes, LB; Brad Laird, QB; Clarence Matthews, RB/KR; Robert Oliver, NT; Pat Palmer, WR; Nathan Platt, DT; Keith Thibodeaux, CB; Chris Willis, SS.
Strengths: Laird is poised to rewrite the passing section of the Northwestern State record book. Matthews will hurt opponents as a runner, receiver and kick returner. Keep an eye on Hardaway, a freshman who was the Central Texas High School Player of the Year last fall. The Demons may have their best-ever defensive line.

Weaknesses: Northwestern starters are untested at safety and wide receiver and slow at linebacker. The kicking game must become more consistent. If Laird gets hurt, this team is in trouble.
Outlook: Goodwin, whose squad featured 28 seniors in the spring, thinks this should be the best team in school history. The Demons will be tested by a schedule that features five preseason Top 20 teams and I-AA Northeast Louisiana. Another 5-6 record would be Goodwin's fourth this decade and could put him on shaky ground. But he should deliver a winning campaign.
Schedule: at Southern, Sept. 2; at Troy State, Sept. 9; Delta State (Miss.), Sept. 16; East Texas State, Sept. 23; at Boise State, Sept. 30; Nicholls State, Oct. 7; at Sam Houston State, Oct. 14; at Northeast Louisiana, Oct. 21; Southwest Texas State, Oct. 28; at McNeese State, Nov. 11; Stephen F. Austin State, Nov. 18.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1988.
Nickname: Demons. **Site:** Natchitoches, La.

4. SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE

Coach: Jim Bob Helduser (11-21-1, 3 years)

1994 record: 4-7. Southland: 1-5/5th

Top players: Aaron Allen, RB; Jeff Brandes, P; Vince Collins, SS; Claude Mattis, RB/KR; Lawrence McPherson, RB; Adam Means, OT; Donald Miller, DE; Joe O'Haver, LB; Chris Sanchez, OT; David Williams, QB.
Strengths: Mattis, an explosive runner and kick returner, is the best of eight returning starters on offense. With him and Brandes, the Southland's most consistent punter, the Bobcats could have the league's best special teams.
Weaknesses: Between the tackles, the offensive line is new. So is most of the defense's front seven. The loss of All-America running back Donald Wilkerson puts pressure on the offense to diversify. The Bobcats need to develop a winning attitude.
Outlook: The incoming recruits should provide immediate help, which will be needed—especially on defense—if Southwest Texas hopes to forge its first winning season since 1991. Otherwise, Helduser, the league's most well-liked coach, may feel pressure. The Bobcats cause will be aided by a soft schedule.
Schedule: Eastern Washington, Sept. 7; Texas A&M-Kingsville, Sept. 14; at Montana State, Sept. 23; Southern Utah, Sept. 30; Cal State Northridge, Oct. 7; at Cal State Sacramento, Oct. 14; at Nicholls State, Oct. 21; at Northwestern State, Oct. 28; McNeese State, Nov. 4; at Stephen F. Austin State, Nov. 11; Sam Houston State, Nov. 18.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.
Nickname: Bobcats. **Site:** San Marcos, Texas

5. SAM HOUSTON STATE

Coach: Ron Randleman (74-58-3, 13 years, 161-110-2 overall, 26 years)

1994 record: 6-5. Southland: 1-5/5th

Top players: Eric Anderson, LB; Stacey Arrambide, QB; David Garrett, FS; Marcus Haydik, K; Chris Hall, SS; Billy Holmes, LB; Kevin Janek, OT; Kirk Lawrence, FB; Dedrick Mango, LB; Brad Molder, OT; Darius Smith, C; Trey Woods, CB.

Strengths: The Bearkats have blocked a combined 17 kicks over the past four years and are known for creating turnovers. Haydik, the team's leading scorer in 1994, is back. So is Woods, an inspirational leader.
Weaknesses: Arrambide is erratic, and injuries kept his protection from jelling last year. The defensive front must be replaced, and the talent pool is average at most positions.

Outlook: The Bearkats opened 1994 by winning five consecutive games. They then lost five in a row, with injuries playing a role. Healthy or not this season, Sam Houston State doesn't figure to finish in the upper division.
Schedule: Jacksonville State, Sept. 2; Aborn State, Sept. 9; at Boise State, Sept. 16; Texas A&M-Kingsville, Sept. 23; at Texas Southern, Sept. 30; Stephen F. Austin State, Oct. 7; Northwestern State, Oct. 14; at McNeese State, Oct. 21; at Nicholls State, Nov. 4; at Southwest Texas State, Nov. 18.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1991.
Nickname: Bearkats. **Site:** Huntsville, Texas

6. NICHOLLS STATE

Coach: Darren Barber (1st year)

1994 record: 5-6. Southland: 1-5/5th

Top players: Eric Crawford, DB; Adam Diel, K; Farap Foster, RB; Tyrone Houston, LB; Nakia Lumar, TB; Henri Hanelore, QB; Darnell Small, LB; Terrence Spears, FB; Corey Thomas, QB; Frank Wilson, CB (moved from TB).
Strengths: Thomas, one of eight returning starters on offense, is the Colonels' best runner and will mature as a passer. Diel has led Nicholls in scoring two consecutive years. Small makes a big contribution at linebacker.
Weaknesses: The defense must replace eight starters, including three from a secondary that featured all-star Darryl Pounds. Moving Wilson from tailback to cornerback could further weaken an inconsistent offense.
Outlook: Barber, 34, is the oldest member of the coaching staff. He comes to Nicholls from Hahville High in Boutte, La., where he led the school to two Class 5A state titles in the past three years. But the jump to mid-major college football requires patience from the Nicholls State alum. After all, the Colonels haven't had a winning season since 1988.
Schedule: at Hofstra, Sept. 2; at Northeast Louisiana, Sept. 9; Troy State, Sept. 16; at Southern Illinois, Sept. 23; Samford, Sept. 30; at Northwestern State, Oct. 7; at Stephen F. Austin State, Oct. 14; Southwest Texas State, Oct. 21; at Southern, Oct. 28; Sam Houston State, Nov. 4; McNeese State, Nov. 18.
Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1986.
Nickname: Colonels. **Site:** Thibodaux, La.

Text by Carl Dubois



Northwestern SL RB Clarence Matthews.

Strong-armed Nord lengthens long line of star Grambling QBs

By SCOTT GREMILLION

Even when you're a record-setting quarterback in the SWAC, it sometimes is hard to get national acclaim. Just ask Steve McNair, who finished third in Heisman Trophy voting last season despite piling up an eye-popping 5,799 total yards for Alcorn State.

So if McNair had trouble gaining national credibility while posting outrageous statistics, imagine the identity crisis Grambling quarterback Kendrick Nord experienced last season, when he failed to barely register a blip on the college football map despite posting lofty numbers.

Nord compiled an impressive 2,811 total yards in 1994, which ranked 13th among I-AA signal-callers. That figure paled compared to numbers McNair racked up. But McNair is in the NFL, which leaves the SWAC (and possibly the national) spotlight on Nord, who definitely has pro size (6-foot-4, 210 pounds).

Nord is just the latest in a line of standout Tigers quarterbacks. But Grambling fans don't mention his name in the same breath as former stars James Harris, Matt Reed or the Williams brothers—Doug and Mike. Not yet, anyway. But if Nord, who is entering his third season as Grambling's starter, picks up where he left off in 1994, the comparisons undoubtedly will commence.

"People expect a lot from the Grambling quarterback," Nord said. "But I know I have to go out there and play within myself. I can't try and measure up to what some of the other great quarterbacks have done here.

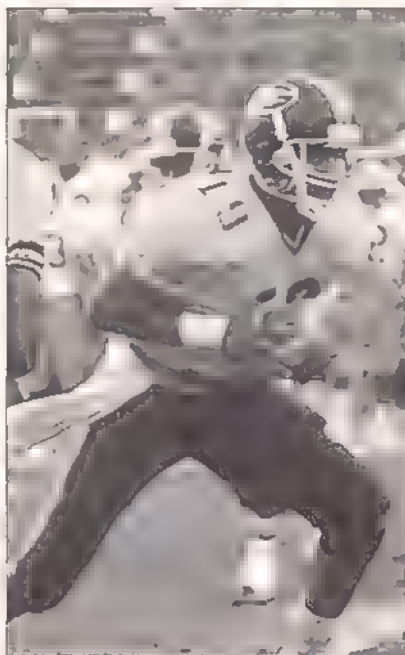
"I know what I can do and what I'm capable of. If I try and do too much, it only will hurt my team. I have a lot of guys who can do a lot of things with the ball. My job is to get them the ball and let them make it happen. Then, if all else breaks down, I can try and make something happen."

Nord played like a Grambling great in the season-opening game against Alcorn and McNair last season. The contest produced 1,318 yards of total offense. Nord completed 17 of 33 passes for 485 yards and seven touchdowns in leading the Tigers to a 62-56 win. McNair passed for 534 yards.

Nord received several honors for his performance, including SWAC and Louisiana Offensive Player of the Week honors. A few weeks later, THE SPORTING NEWS tipped its hat to Nord, noting he was "a bigger, stronger version of Air II (McNair)" in its "Caught on the Fly" column.

But the season-opening air battle with McNair was only a preview of things for Nord. He finished with 160 completions in 300 attempts for 2,811 yards, with 29 touchdowns and 17 interceptions, to rank sixth among I-AA quarterbacks in passing efficiency. Nord was the major reason the Tigers ranked fourth in the nation in total offense (458.4 yards per game) and scoring offense (41.1 points per game).

But Nord's performance didn't surprise



GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY

Grambling's Kendrick Nord threw for 2,811 yards and 29 touchdowns last season.

Grambling fans, who expected big things from him after he made a smashing debut in 1993. After redshirting as a freshman in 1992, Nord earned SWAC Newcomer of the Year accolades by passing for 1,987 yards and 16 touchdowns.

"Kendrick is a natural leader who plays within himself," Grambling Coach Eddie Robinson said. "He is sometimes taken for granted because of his quiet nature and fitting-in personality."

"He is not loud. He doesn't point fingers. He leads by example. He goes all out on every play. I have to tell him to slow down at times. But he knows no other way or no other speed to play. It has been a great honor coaching a young man of Kendrick's character."

Aside from compiling impressive statistics, Nord—who was an all-state performer at Williamson High School in Mobile, Ala.—has a nose for winning. Last season, the Tigers got off to a 9-0 start and were ranked No. 3 in the nation. But Grambling dropped its last three games, including a season-ending 31-27 loss to South Carolina State in Heritage Bowl IV. But the Tigers still won the SWAC crown for the 17th time since joining the conference in 1959. And Nord has big plans for this season.

"As a football player, you have to picture yourself doing the impossible," Nord said. "You try to do the incredible. But to do that, you always have to look to do better than you're doing."

"My goal is to win the league and be the best leader I can for our team." ♦

Scott Gremillion covers Southern University and the SWAC for the Baton Rouge (La.) Advocate.

SWAC

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. SOUTHERN
2. GRAMBLING STATE
3. JACKSON STATE
4. ALABAMA STATE
5. ALCORN STATE
6. TEXAS SOUTHERN
7. MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ST.
8. PRAIRIE VIEW A&M

ALL-SWAC TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	REGGIE BARLOW, Alabama State	6-0/188	Sr
WR	ROBERT L. JONES, Alcorn State	6-4/205	Jr
TE	BRENT BARRINGTON, Southern	6-6/260	Soph
T	PAUL ETHERIDGE, Alabama State	6-5/315	Sr
T	CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON, Grambling St.	6-5/300	Sr
G	ELLOTT WOMACK, Grambling St.	6-4/320	Sr
G	EMILE STALLWORTH, Alabama St.	6-0/263	Sr
C	UZOMA MOORE, Grambling State	6-0/270	Sr
QB	KENDRICK NORD, Grambling State	6-4/210	Sr
RB	ROBERT BAUGHN, Alabama State	6-1/205	Jr
RB	MELVIN WILLIAMS, Southern	5-10/185	Soph

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
E	BRYANT MIX, Alcorn State	6-3/285	Sr
T	KENDEL SHELLO, Southern	6-4/285	Sr
E	ALBERT REESE, Grambling State	6-6/255	Sr
LB	ALMOND BROWN, Grambling St.	5-10/195	Jr
LB	OTIS MYLES, Prairie View	6-1/235	Jr
LB	KENYA ROUNDS, Southern	6-0/223	Sr
LB	DEREK SCOTT, Alabama St.	6-0/240	Sr
CB	DONTE DOWERS, Alcorn St.	5-11/183	Sr
CB	DERRICK LEWIS, Jackson St.	5-11/181	Soph
S	SHELLY BARNETT, Grambling St.	6-2/180	Jr
S	PICASSO NELSON, Jackson St.	6-1/195	Sr

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
K	DAVID JAKANA, Alcorn State	6-9/155	Jr
P	BRANNON SIMPSON, Grambling St.	6-0/195	Sr
KR	GOREE WHITE, Alcorn State	5-10/177	Jr

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

KENDRICK NORD
QB, Grambling State



DEFENSE:

KENYA ROUNDS
LB, Southern

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC TEAM CHARTS

1. SOUTHERN

Coach: Pete Richardson (17-6, 2 years, 58-20-1 overall, 7 years).

1994 record: 6-5 SWAC 5-2/3rd.

Top players: Fred Bailey, WR Brent Barrington, TE, Andre Davis, DT; Heishma Norham, S; Eric Randall, QB Kenya Rounds, LB; Kendell Shello, DT; Kenyatta Sparks, WR, John Williams, DB; Melvin Williams, TB.

Strengths: Southern returns much of its offensive firepower, including four-year starter Randall, 1,031-yard rusher Williams and receivers Bailey and Barrington. Rounds and Shello lead a tenacious "Dog Day Defense" that once again ranked among Division I-AA's best.

Weaknesses: Depth proved the Jaguars' undoing last season. After opening with three shutout victories, Southern lost five of its next six games as many key players went down with injuries.

Outlook: This is the season Richardson and his staff have been working toward. Southern has all the ingredients necessary to win its second league title in three years.

Schedule: Northwestern State, Sept. 2; at Alabama State Sept. 9; Prairie View A&M, Sept. 16; Hampton, Sept. 23; at Mississippi Valley State, Sept. 30; at Jackson State, Oct. 14; Alcorn State, Oct. 21; Nicholls State, Oct. 28; Florida A&M (at Atlanta), Nov. 4; at Texas Southern, Nov. 11; Grambling State (at New Orleans), Nov. 25.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Jaguars. **Site:** Baton Rouge, La.

2. GRAMBLING STATE

Coach: Eddie Robinson (397-143-15, 52 years).

1994 record: 9-3 (lost to South Carolina State in Heritage Bowl) SWAC 6-1/1st.

Top players: Shelly Barnett, DB; James L. Brooks, OT; Valmond Brown, LB; Christopher Johnson, OT; Keith James, WR/KR; Uzoma Moore, C; Jeff Nichols, RB; Kendrick Nord, QB; Albert Reese, DT/DE; Elliott Womack, G.

Strengths: Many key performers return on an offense that rolled up such point totals as 51 (twice), 62, 66 and 87. Nord finally gets the chance to step outside the considerable shadow that Steve McNair cast both in the SWAC and nationally.

Weaknesses: Grambling lost six key defensive players. The Tigers also must find a replacement for kicker Guad Landau, a four-time all-conference selection.

Outlook: Will the real Tigers please stand up? Is Grambling the team that won its first nine games last season or the one that lost its last three? Robinson, obviously hoping for the former, needs just three victories for his historic 400th career victory.

Schedule: at Alcorn State, Sept. 2; Hampton (at East Rutherford, N.J.), Sept. 16; Central State (Ohio), Sept. 23; Prairie View A&M (at Dallas), Sept. 30; Mississippi Valley State, Oct. 7; Arkansas-Pine Bluff (at Shreveport, La.), Oct. 14; at Jackson State, Oct. 21; Texas Southern, Oct. 28; at Alabama State, Nov. 4; Elizabeth City (N.C.) State, Nov. 11; Southern (at New Orleans), Nov. 25.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1989.

Nickname: Tigers. **Site:** Grambling, La.

3. JACKSON STATE

Coach: James Carson (19-13-1, 3 years).

1994 record: 7-4 SWAC 4-3/4th.

Top players: Rayfield Adams, OL; Eric Austin, SS; Quincy Coleman, CB; Cedric Dunbar, P; Maurice Hampton, RB; Carlos Knight, RB; Derrick Lewis, CB; Picasso Nelson, FS; Corwin Sledge, DL; Greg Spann, WR.

Strengths: Jackson State boasts enough depth at running back for two teams, with one returning starter, one returning backup, two talented redshirts and two promising newcomers. The secondary returns intact, including 1994 All-SWAC free safety Nelson and standouts Lewis and Austin.

Weaknesses: Inexperience at quarterback is a concern. Sophomore Graylin Pratt, who played in only four games, is the Tigers' most tested signal-caller. Three starting linemen have departed.

Outlook: Last season was expected to be a rebuilding year for Jackson State, but the Tigers surprised everyone with a strong showing. That momentum figures to continue.

Schedule: Alabama A&M (at Birmingham, Ala.), Sept. 3; Tennessee State (at Memphis, Tenn.), Sept. 9; at Florida A&M, Sept. 16; Mississippi Valley State, Sept. 23.

Alabama State (at Detroit), Oct. 7; Southern, Oct. 14;

Grambling State, Oct. 21; Arkansas Pine Bluff, Oct. 28; at Texas Southern, Nov. 4; at Prairie View A&M, Nov. 11; Alcorn State, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1990.

Nickname: Tigers. **Site:** Jackson, Miss.

4. ALABAMA STATE

Coach: Houston Markham (55-28-4, 8 years).

1994 record: 6-5 SWAC 3-4/5th.

Top players: Reggie Barlow, WR; Paul Etheridge, OT; John Feagin, QB; Ervin Garner, DE; Herbert Harris, DE; Derek Scott, LB; Emille Stallworth, OG; Aceade Surtain, QB; Cedric Thornton, LB; Robert Vaughn, RB.

Strengths: Alabama State returns seven offensive starters, including all-league players Barlow (58 receptions) and Vaughn (1,088 yards rushing in only seven games). Surtain is back after missing most of last season because of an injury. The defensive line, anchored by Harris, returns intact.

Weaknesses: The Hornets must replace All-SWAC performers at cornerback and free safety. Scott heads a linebacking corps that lost two starters.

Outlook: For the third consecutive year, Alabama State started slow (1-4) and finished fast (5-1). Once again, the Hornets have enough talent to be a factor in the league race.

Schedule: at Alabama-Birmingham, Sept. 2; Southern, Sept. 9; Alcorn State (at Mobile, Ala.), Sept. 16; Troy State, Sept. 23; Jackson State (at Detroit), Oct. 7; at Texas Southern, Oct. 14; Prairie View A&M, Oct. 21; Alabama A&M (at Birmingham, Ala.), Oct. 28; Grambling State, Nov. 4; at Mississippi Valley State, Nov. 11; Tuskegee, Nov. 24.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Hornets. **Site:** Montgomery, Ala.

5. ALCORN STATE

Coach: Cardell Jones (31-12-2, 4 years).

1994 record: 8-3-1 (including 0-1 in I-AA playoffs) SWAC 6-1/1st.

Top players: Elluntate Bell, DB; Marcus Colley, LB; Dante Dowers, CB; Jason Floyd, OL; David Jakana, K; Kobe Jenkins, WR; Bryant Mix, DE; Kewone Robinson, OL; Donald Ross, WR; Goree White, KR.

Strengths: The good news is that Alcorn State returns 10 defensive starters. The bad news is that the Braves surrendered 364 points and 4,457 total yards last year in 11 regular-season games. Still, Mix (13 sacks and 29 quarterback "hurries") is the real thing. Alcorn State has a good offensive line for a host of youngsters to run behind. Jenkins and Ross are top-flight receivers.

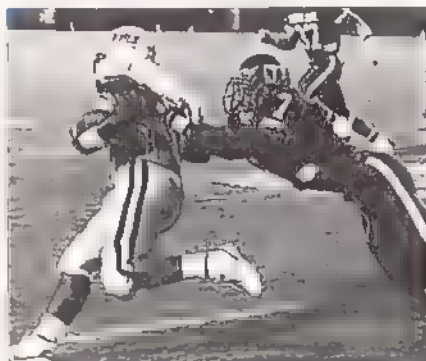
Weaknesses: How do you replace quarterback Steve McNair, who rewrote myriad records during four marvelous seasons?

Outlook: Last season, one NFL scout said Alcorn State would have finished 4-7 without McNair. This season, everyone gets the chance to find out just how smart that scout was. It won't help that the Braves play five consecutive games on the road after opening at home.

Schedule: Grambling State, Sept. 2; at Sam Houston State, Sept. 9; Alabama State (at Mobile, Ala.), Sept. 16; at Texas Southern, Sept. 23; at Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Sept. 30; Howard (at Indianapolis), Oct. 7; Prairie View A&M, Oct. 14; at Southern, Oct. 21; Samford, Oct. 28; Mississippi Valley State, Nov. 4; at Jackson State, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1994.

Nickname: Braves. **Site:** Jorman, Miss.



Jackson State free safety Picasso Nelson.

6. TEXAS SOUTHERN

Coach: Bill Thomas (4-7, 1 year; 38-27-3 overall, 6 years).

1994 record: 4-7 SWAC 2-5/7th.

Top players: William Andrews, OL; Alfred Bryant, DE; Cedric Douglas, QB; Jason Hampton, RB; Lee Harvey, WR; Eric Johnson, DE; Leonard LeBlanc, TE; Nick Lopez, DE; Ramon Manning, LB; Byron Solomon, RB.

Strengths: Texas Southern bids for its first winning season since 1977 with players who went from 2-9 in 1993 to 4-7 in 1994. The defensive line is a cohesive, experienced unit. **Weaknesses:** New offensive coordinator Archie (Gunslinger) Cooley brings a philosophy designed to suit the multi-talented Douglas. The Tigers likely will need game experience to get accustomed to the change. The linebacking corps needs shoring up.

Outlook: Thomas already has noticed a change as he begins his second year as Texas Southern's coach. "Last season, we had people who couldn't stand up after five minutes of practice," he said. "This season, it's an entirely different ballgame."

Schedule: Prairie View A&M, Sept. 2; Clark, Sept. 9; Alcorn State, Sept. 23; Sam Houston State, Sept. 30; Alabama State, Oct. 14; at Mississippi Valley State, Oct. 21; at Grambling State, Oct. 28; Jackson State, Nov. 4; Southern, Nov. 11; at Arkansas Pine Bluff, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Tigers. **Site:** Houston.

7. MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE

Coach: Larry Dorsey (23-25-3, 5 years).

1994 record: 3-7 SWAC 2-5/7th.

Top players: Chris Bolton, OL; Steve Booze, WR; Fred Ford, DB; Clint Galewood, LB; Terry Houzah, RB; Eddie Malone, DE; Keith Ponder, QB; Darrell Randle, OL; Xavier Redmond, DB/KR; Ivan Washington, RB.

Strengths: Booze leads a slim group of returnees, he averaged 17.9 yards per catch last season and hauled in four touchdown passes. Bolton and Randle are an imposing duo on the offensive line, weighing in at 350 and 320 pounds, respectively.

Weaknesses: Where to begin? Simply put, the Delta Devils must replace thirty-something seniors, nine offensive starters and six defensive starters.

Outlook: Dorsey, who occasionally coaches from the press box and wears a green hard hat to practice and games, always gets the most from his team. He has his work cut out in 1995, a rebuilding season in which the Devils play only three home games.

Schedule: at Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Sept. 2; at Lane College (Tenn.), Sept. 9; at Jackson State, Sept. 23; Southern, Sept. 30; at Grambling State, Oct. 7; Texas Southern, Oct. 21; at Prairie View A&M, Oct. 28; at Alcorn State, Nov. 4; Alabama State, Nov. 11; at Arkansas State, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1984.

Nickname: Delta Devils. **Site:** Ita Bena, Miss.

8. PRAIRIE VIEW A&M

Coach: Ronald Beard (0-44, 4 years).

1994 record: 0-11 SWAC 0-7/8th.

Top players: Samuel Hayes, LB; Maurice McGowan, OL; David McPherson, OL; Otis Myles, LB; Stuart Pearson, CB; Eric Wilson, TE.

Strengths: Prairie View returns an experienced offensive line, but it will take considerably more than that to end the Panthers' 46-game losing streak. Myles is Prairie View's lone marquee player—and he is a good one.

Weaknesses: As usual, the Panthers are manpower-shy. The defense lost most of its starters, which may not be entirely bad (Prairie View yielded more than 50 points six times last season).

Outlook: It's a no-win situation at Prairie View. Literally. And there's no indication that things will change any time soon.

Schedule: Texas Southern (at Houston), Sept. 2; at Southern, Sept. 16; at Tarleton State (Tex.), Sept. 23; Grambling State (at Dallas), Sept. 30; Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Oct. 7; at Alcorn State, Oct. 14; at Alabama State, Oct. 21; Mississippi Valley State, Oct. 28; Midwestern State (Tex.), Nov. 4; Jackson State, Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Panthers. **Site:** Prairie View, Texas.

Text by Scott Gremillion.

Bigger schools made mistake when they passed on UMass star

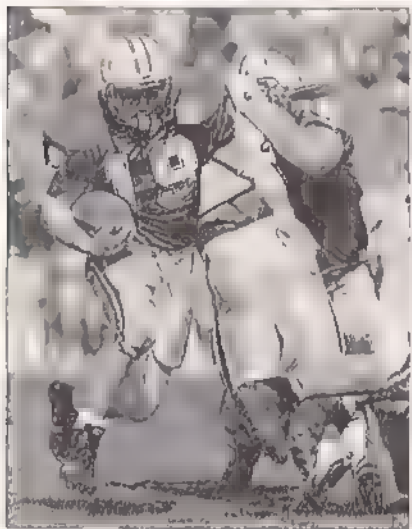
By JOHN O'CONNOR

The first recruiting letter to Rene Ingoglia came from Notre Dame. Imagine the impression that made on the high school running back from Rochester, N.Y.

Now imagine this: The Fighting Irish staff initially wrote Ingoglia when he was a *ninth-grader*. He was that good, and it didn't take long for other big-time suitors to take notice.

Entering his final year at Bishop Kearney High in 1990, Ingoglia (pronounced In-GO-lee-ah) had whittled his college list to Penn State, Syracuse, Wisconsin and Boston College.

"I thought about the Heisman Trophy, about playing in front of 80,000 people, about the games on TV," Ingoglia said. "Then I saw it all leave one Saturday afternoon."



Massachusetts hasn't regretted taking a chance on running back Rene Ingoglia.

It was the third game of the season, and Ingoglia had broken into the open field. With one defender between him and the goal line, Ingoglia cut back, a move he successfully had made a thousand times before. But this time, Ingoglia's left knee twisted awkwardly. The anterior cruciate ligament tore and there was additional damage. Total knee reconstruction was required.

The phone stopped ringing and the letters quit coming for the back with 5,000 prep all-purpose yards.

"One of the (recruiters) later told me it was like if he had ordered a new car," Ingoglia said. "If he had gone to pick up the car and it had a dent in it, well, he wasn't going to buy it."

So here was Rene Ingoglia, dented and undesirable after being told for years how attractive he was.

"Rene's story is a great example of the coldness that can be involved in college football," Richmond Coach Jim Reid said. "One minute, some of the top programs in the nation are recruiting him. The next minute—literally, the next minute—there's not even a return phone call."

Reid was coach at the University of

Massachusetts in 1990 when a Division I-A coach told him about Ingoglia and the knee injury. Reid watched some film of Ingoglia and was impressed. But could Ingoglia ever be even close to what he once was?

"I was convinced to take a chance on Rene when I sat down and talked to him," said Reid, named coach at Richmond after serving as defensive coordinator at Boston College in 1994. "When we committed a scholarship to him, he was just getting into the rehabilitation phase. I had absolutely no idea how it might turn out. But he had charisma. He was convinced he could come back."

Ingoglia signed with UMass, then spent the first season strengthening his knee. Ingoglia suited up the following spring, healthy, frisky and potent again. Then he almost took off on the Minutemen.

Ingoglia pulled out his original short list and began contacting coaches to tell them that he was again ready for the big time.

"My goal was to play I-A football, to show everybody that I could do it," he said.

Reid called Ingoglia into his office. "Let's go back," Reid told him, "and look at how they treated you before."

Ingoglia stuck it out at UMass, and the Minutemen have benefited from his loyalty. After rushing for 656 yards in eight games as a redshirt freshman in 1992, Ingoglia (5-foot-10, 202 pounds) has led the Yankee Conference in rushing the past two seasons. Ingoglia rushed for 1,285 yards and 14 touchdowns as a sophomore. He followed that up with 1,505 yards and 14 more scores last season. With 413 more yards, Ingoglia will surpass Garry Pearson as Massachusetts' all-time leading rusher.

"The thing that makes Rene unique is that he's such a great combination back," said Mike Hodges, who replaced Reid as UMass coach in 1992. "He's got moves. He's got speed. He's got power. He can do it all."

"And we're talking about a quality person, too. Rene does it in the weight room. He does it on the practice field. It should be no surprise that he does it on Saturdays."

His wish of playing in front of 80,000 fans and a TV audience has come and gone. He won't win the Heisman. But Ingoglia still has a dream—the NFL. Ingoglia, who runs the 40 in 4.5 seconds, compares himself to former Princeton running back Keith Elias, who played for the New York Giants in 1994.

"I think (Ingoglia) could really be great in a one-back offense because he can do so many things," Hodges said.

Of course, choosing a I-AA back would be a draft-day gamble. But it wouldn't be the first time somebody has taken a chance on the once-dented Ingoglia.

"When I stopped pouting about the knee and kicked myself in the butt, I was fine," Ingoglia said. "I learned to take adversity and punch it in the face. The injury taught me a lot about life. In many ways, it was a blessing in disguise." ♦

John O'Connor covers the Yankee Conference for the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch.

YANKEE

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

Mid-Atlantic Division

1. JAMES MADISON
2. DELAWARE
3. WILLIAM & MARY
4. VILLANOVA
5. RICHMOND
6. NORTHEASTERN

NEW ENGLAND Division

1. NEW HAMPSHIRE
2. MASSACHUSETTS
3. BOSTON UNIVERSITY
4. CONNECTICUT
5. MAINE
6. RHODE ISLAND

ALL-YANKEE TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	BOBBY AGGAR, Rhode Island	5-11/185	Jr
WR	MACEY BROOKS, James Madison	6-5/205	Jr
TE	ED PERRY, James Madison	6-5/225	Jr
T	CHRIS BOURDON, New Hampshire	6-5/280	Jr
T	BRENT SECORIST, James Madison	6-2/285	Sr
G	SHAWN TROSTLE, Delaware	6-3/270	Sr
G	JOSH BEYER, William & Mary	6-5/280	Jr
C	DAVID BAILEY, James Madison	6-5/285	Sr
QB	MIKE CAWLEY, James Madison	6-2/200	Sr
RB	RENE INGOLIA, Massachusetts	5-10/202	Sr
RB	TROY KEEN, William & Mary	5-10/215	Sr

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
E	MIKE FOLEY, New Hampshire	6-3/274	Jr
T	CHRIS CURTIS, Villanova	6-4/265	Sr
E	JULIUS WILLIAMS, James Madison	6-3/240	Sr
LB	TYRONE FRAZIER, Villanova	6-2/225	Sr
LB	JASON MILLER, William & Mary	6-1/215	Sr
LB	JUDE WADDY, William & Mary	6-2/210	Soph
LB	LAMON JONES, Rhode Island	6-3/230	Soph
CB	BREON PARKER, Massachusetts	5-10/183	Sr
CB	PAUL WILLIAMS, Delaware	5-9/166	Sr
S	ROB MCCOY, New Hampshire	6-0/200	Jr
S	DARREN SHARPER, William & Mary	6-3/190	Jr

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
K	JOHN COURSEY, James Madison	5-0/190	Jr
P	DAVID DEARMAS, Connecticut	5-10/95	Sr
KR	CALVIN JONES, New Hampshire	5-9/180	Soph

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

RENE INGOLIA
RB, Massachusetts



DEFENSE:

TYRONE FRAZIER
LB, Villanova

YANKEE CONFERENCE TEAM CHARTS

MID-ATLANTIC DIVISION

1. JAMES MADISON

Coach: Alex Wood (1st year)

1994 record: 10-3 (including 1-1 in I-AA playoffs). Yankee Mid Atlantic: 6-2/T1st

Top players: David Bailey, OL; Aionzo Bowler, LB; Macey Brooks, WR; Mike Cawley, QB; John Coursey, K; Marcus Cuttino, DT; Kelvin Jeter, RB; David Lee, SS; Ed Perry, TE; Brent Sacnt, OL; Julius Williams, DE; Kelly Wiltshire, CB.
Strengths: There are many. Start with Cawley, an elusive strong-armed transfer from Syracuse who threw for 2,035 yards and ran for 589 last season. Jeter ran for 758 yards in nine regular-season games and 358 in two playoff games. The Dukes have two of the finest receivers in I-AA in Brooks and Perry. Six starters return from the league's stingiest defense.

Weaknesses: The Dukes need to replace two offensive linemen and all three linebackers. They'll be breaking in a new staff, too, one headed by Wood, formerly the offensive coordinator at Wake Forest. The punting game was weak in '94 and quality kick returner Dwight Robinson will be missed.

Outlook: The Dukes have the makings of a championship team. If Wood can use Cawley, Jeter, Brooks and Perry as effectively as former coach Rip Scherer, the offense should score even more than the 29.3 points it averaged last season. James Madison's overall team speed on defense kept opponents from big gains, and that trend should continue.

Schedule: Morgan State, Sept. 2; at William & Mary, Sept. 9; McNeese State, Sept. 16; at Villanova, Sept. 23; at Maine, Sept. 30; Boston University, Oct. 7; at New Hampshire, Oct. 14; Delaware, Oct. 21; Richmond, Oct. 28; at Northeastern, Nov. 4; Connecticut, Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1994

Nickname: Dukes. **Site:** Harrisonburg, Va.

2. DELAWARE

Coach: Tubby Raymond (23rd year, 29 years)

1994 record: 7-3-1 Yankee Mid Atlantic: 5-3/3rd

Top players: Steve Archibald, OT; Kenny Bailey, FS; Courtney Balts, SE; Norman Coleman, RB/DB; Eddie Combs, SE/KR; Ralph D'Angelo, LB; Bryan Soltis, DE; Shannon Trostle, G; Pat Williams, RB; Paul Williams, CB.
Strengths: Raymond's deceptive Wing-T looks defenses



James Madison quarterback Mike Cawley.

better when the Blue Hens operate with experienced personnel, and Delaware has that with eight offensive starters back. Coleman and Pat Williams combined for 1,148 rushing yards last season, and Trostle leads a veteran line. Twenty-four returnees have played regularly, including five players who have started at linebacker.

Weaknesses: Daryl Brown, the Yankee's all-time leading rusher, will be tough to replace. Raymond also has some work to do on the defensive line. The Hens averaged just 134.5 passing yards last season and are searching for a consistent quarterback.

Outlook: Delaware missed the playoffs last year for the first time since 1990. But if the defense can be tightened and a quality passer found, the Blue Hens could be the Yankee's best again.

Schedule: West Chester, Sept. 9; Villanova, Sept. 16; at Boston University, Sept. 23; at Northeastern, Sept. 30; Youngstown State, Oct. 7; Richmond, Oct. 14; at James Madison, Oct. 21; Maine, Oct. 28; William & Mary, Nov. 4; at Navy, Nov. 11; at Rhode Island, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1993

Nickname: Blue Hens. **Site:** Newark, Del.

3. WILLIAM & MARY

Coach: Jimmy Laycock (98-70-2, 15 years)

1994 record: 8-3 Yankee Mid Atlantic: 6-2/T1st

Top players: Josh Boyer, G; Matt Byrne, QB; Derek Fitzgerald, TB; Brian Gagne, DT; Terry Hammons, WR; Troy Keen, FB; Jason Miller, LB; Stefan Moody, LB; Darren Sharper, FS; Jim Simpkins, DT; Jude Waddy, LB.

Strengths: The Tribe has 19 starters back (nine on offense, 10 on defense). Fitzgerald and Keen are top-quality rushers who combined for 1,760 yards and 16 touchdowns last year. Hammons is a deep threat. The defense, led by Sharper and Miller, could improve upon its No. 2 league ranking. Laycock is regarded as one of college football's brightest offensive minds.

Weaknesses: The Tribe lost record-setting quarterback Shawn Knight, steady receiver Mike Tomlin and top tackler Greg Applewhite to graduation. Byrne, a senior, will be the new quarterback, but he is unproven.

Outlook: Given Laycock's track record with quarterbacks, there's reason to believe Byrne will be fine, which means William & Mary could be among the Yankee's best. The Tribe definitely will be able to run the ball and should be able to stop people.

Schedule: at Virginia, Sept. 2; James Madison, Sept. 9; at Northeastern, Sept. 16; at New Hampshire, Sept. 23; at Virginia Military Institute, Sept. 30; Rhode Island, Oct. 7; Pennsylvania, Oct. 14; at Massachusetts, Oct. 21; Villanova, Oct. 28; at Delaware, Nov. 4; Richmond, Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1993

Nickname: Tribe. **Site:** Williamsburg, Va.

4. VILLANOVA

Coach: Andy Talley (65-38-1, 10 years; 93-56-2 overall, 15 years)

1994 record: 5-6 Yankee Mid Atlantic: 2-6/T4th

Top players: A.J. Burawski, LB; Anthony Cowsett, TB; Chris Curtis, DT; Gary Dennis, FB; Josh Dolbin, WR; Curtis Duraaway, CB; Brian Finneran, WR; Tyrone Frazier, LB; Tom Marchese, QB; Erik Pearson, QB; Frank Venezia, P/K.

Strengths: Cowsett may be one of the best tailbacks in the league. He and Dennis could give the 'Cats a solid running combination. Finneran caught 56 passes as a freshman last year. Frazier led the league in tackles, and the secondary is loaded with talent and experience.

Weaknesses: Pearson started the first four games of last season before suffering stomach problems and being replaced by Marchese, a Maryland transfer who was adequate. One of them needs to step up. There's not much speed on offense, and the defensive line could use more size.

Outlook: Villanova is basically a sophomore- and junior-laden team that appears to be a year away from making serious noise in the league race.

Schedule: Boston University, Sept. 8; at Delaware, Sept. 16; James Madison, Sept. 23; at Buffalo, Sept. 30; Connecticut, Oct. 7; Northeastern, Oct. 14; at Navy, Oct. 21; at William & Mary, Oct. 28; at Rhode Island, Nov. 4; New Hampshire, Nov. 11; Richmond, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1992

Nickname: Wildcats. **Site:** Philadelphia



Delaware running back Pat Williams.

5. RICHMOND

Coach: Jim Reid (First year, 36-29-2 overall, 6 years)

1994 record: 3-8 Yankee Mid Atlantic: 1-7/6th

Top players: Shawn Barber, DB; Ari Blanchard, DL; Joe Elrod, QB; Jason Gabrels, QB; Brian Holtorf, TE; Elio Imbomone, TE; Antoine Lee, WR/RB; T.J. McNally, RB; Marc Megna, LB; Winston October, DB; Minoso Rodgers, TB.

Strengths: Rodgers didn't get many carries last year playing behind Uly Scott, Richmond's all-time leading rusher, but he showed flashes of brilliance when he did. Holtorf caught 28 passes as a freshman. Blanchard has developed into a dependable run-stopper. Reid, the former coach at Massachusetts (1986-91), is expected to pump some life into a program that hasn't exhibited much lately.

Weaknesses: Richmond needs help just about everywhere. Foremost, the Spiders need to decide on a quarterback. Each of the contenders, Elrod and Gabrels, started at times last season. The defense was one of the easiest in I-AA to run against.

Outlook: The Spiders relied so heavily on Scott in 1994 that it's anybody's guess where their offensive focus will be in '95. Defensively, they were solid against the pass, but opponents rarely threw because it was so easy to run. Richmond probably is a recruiting class or two away from contention.

Schedule: Virginia Military Institute, Sept. 2; at Massachusetts, Sept. 9; The Citadel, Sept. 16; Boston University, Sept. 30; Northeastern, Oct. 7; at Delaware, Oct. 14; at Fordham, Oct. 21; at James Madison, Oct. 28; New Hampshire, Nov. 4; at William & Mary, Nov. 11; at Villanova, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1987

Nickname: Spiders. **Site:** Richmond, Va.

6. NORTHEASTERN

Coach: Barry Gallup (13-30-1, 4 years)

1994 record: 2-9 Yankee Mid Atlantic: 2-6/T4th

Top players: Chris Brady, WR; Brian Chamberlain, OT; Jerome Daniels, OT; Mark Hopkins, DB; Steve Kives, LB; Tom Monios, WR; Jim Murphy, QB; Dan Schena, DT; Andre Seido, P; Anthony Smith, CB; Brian Vaughan, RB; Pat Wood, QB.

Strengths: Vaughan has good speed, a high intensity level and the ability to break tackles. All but one starter returns on the offensive line, and the receivers are experienced. Northeastern won its final two games last season after starting 0-9, so there may be some momentum.

Weaknesses: The offense has experience, but it's a unit

Continued

YANKEE CONFERENCE TEAM CHARTS

that managed just 269.2 yards a game, last in the league. The defense gave up 33 first downs to Delaware and 414 passing yards to Boston University, both Yankee Conference highs last season. The Huskies need to find a way to win close ones (they lost four games by seven or fewer points) and develop a quarterback. To that end, Gallup signed Wood, a junior-college transfer who has "major escapability," according to the coach.

Outlook: Wood was one of 14 signees in what Gallup believes to be his best recruiting harvest in five years. Many will play immediately (Wood and Kives seem most likely to make an instant impact), and if the Huskies are to rise from the depths of the Yankee, they'll have to play well.

Schedule: Colgate, Sept. 9; William & Mary, Sept. 16; Massachusetts, Sept. 23; Delaware, Sept. 30; at Richmond, Oct. 7; at Villanova, Oct. 14; at Boston University, Oct. 21; at Connecticut, Oct. 28; James Madison, Nov. 4; at Maine, Nov. 11; at New Hampshire, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Huskies. **Site:** Boston.

NEW ENGLAND DIVISION

1. NEW HAMPSHIRE

Coach: Bill Bowes (152-65-5, 23 years).

1994 record: 10-2 (including 0-1 in I-AA playoffs). Yankee New England: 8-0/1st.

Top players: Al Barrow, WR; Chris Bourdon, OT; Romande Carter, LB; Sean Finnegan, DT; Mike Foley, DE; Calvin Jones, WR; Rob McCoy, DB; Matt Mezquita, TB; Brendan Richter, LB; Jeff Tamulski, TE; Joe Walker, DE.

Strengths: Seven starters, including All-Yankee lineman Foley, are back from a defense that gave up just 17.5 points per game. The Wildcats have three top-notch pass catchers in Barrow, Jones and Tamulski. New Hampshire was plus-16 in turnover margin last season.

Weaknesses: The key offensive players of 1994 are gone: quarterback Jim Stayer, tailback Avrom Smith and fullback Lee McClinton. Can Mezquita step into Smith's slot and carry the load? The new quarterback will be untested.

Outlook: At least early in the season, New Hampshire likely will have to rely on its strong defense while its young offense comes together. The Wildcats gave up 14 points or less seven times last season and are a good bet to do as well in '95. Offensive maturation will determine if they can repeat as Yankee champs.

Schedule: at Connecticut, Sept. 9; Rhode Island, Sept. 16; William & Mary, Sept. 23; at Lehigh, Sept. 30; at Massachusetts, Oct. 7; James Madison, Oct. 14; Maine, Oct. 21; Boston University, Oct. 28; at Richmond, Nov. 4; at Villanova, Nov. 11; Northeastern, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1994.

Nickname: Wildcats. **Site:** Durham, N.H.

2. MASSACHUSETTS

Coach: Mike Hodges (20-12, 3 years).

1994 record: 5-6. Yankee New England: 4-4/T3rd.

Top players: Frank Alessio, TB; Ken Bello, OL; Kevin Bourquin, WR; Ron Brockington, RB; Vernard Fennell, DE; Rene Ingoglia, RB; Dan Markowski, OL; Andrew McNeilly, QB; Breon Parker, CB/KR; Mark Shialia, OL; Mike Valentino, LB.

Strengths: It's unlikely any league team will run the ball as frequently as UMass, which returns Ingoglia (3,446 career rushing yards), Alessio and Brockington. Parker may be one of the best cornerbacks in I-AA. McNeilly is a three-year starter at quarterback, but he is more dependable than flashy.

Weaknesses: UMass needs to replace three starters on the Yankee's best defensive front of 1994. The Minutemen don't throw the ball; last season's 96.8-yard average was last in the league.

Outlook: UMass rarely gives up much ground, regardless of the defensive components. When the Minutemen struggle, it's usually because they don't score much. Can the Minutemen develop a passing game dangerous enough to keep defenses from ganging up on Ingoglia? If the answer is yes, they could contend.

Schedule: Richmond, Sept. 9; Holy Cross, Sept. 16; at Northeastern, Sept. 23; at Rhode Island, Sept. 30; New Hampshire, Oct. 7; at Buffalo, Oct. 14; William & Mary, Oct.



Northeastern running back Brian Vaughan.

21 Lehigh, Oct. 28; at Maine, Nov. 4; at Boston University, Nov. 11; at Connecticut, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1990.

Nickname: Minutemen. **Site:** Amherst, Mass.

3. BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Coach: Dan Allen (33-25, 5 years).

1994 record: 9-3 (including 0-1 in I-AA playoffs). Yankee New England: 6-2/2nd.

Top players: Corey Barber, DT; Jose Conde, LB; Julien Dale, RB; Brett Dedman, TE; Kevin Foley, QB; Jeff Fuller, DE; Ivan Padilla, OT; Ron Stephenson, WR; Lex Thornton, DB; Chris Walker, WR.

Strengths: Even in a run-and-shoot offense, there's room for a power back, as Dale demonstrated last season. Dale, a 5-foot-10, 240-pounder, ran for 911 yards and was named the league's rookie of the year. Foley, a transfer from Maryland, has a speedy cast of receivers.

Weaknesses: Foley will be trying to replace Robert Dougherty, who led the Terriers to back-to-back playoff appearances and twice was named the league's top offensive player. Nine of 11 starters need to be replaced on defense, and 24 lettermen are gone. Allen is looking for answers on both lines.

Outlook: Dougherty, who came to BU from a junior college in California, proved to be just the transfusion a drab program needed. Now that he is gone, the Terriers need another centerpiece for their run-and-shoot. Will it be another transfer (Foley)?

Schedule: at Villanova, Sept. 8; Maine, Sept. 16; Delaware, Sept. 23; at Richmond, Sept. 30; at James Madison, Oct. 7; Rhode Island, Oct. 14; Northeastern, Oct. 21; at New Hampshire, Oct. 28; at Connecticut, Nov. 4; Massachusetts, Nov. 11; at Buffalo, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1994.

Nickname: Terriers. **Site:** Boston.

4. CONNECTICUT

Coach: Skip Holtz (4-7, 1 year).

1994 record: 4-7. Yankee New England: 4-4/T3rd.

Top players: Brian Arnold, DT; Larry Austin, FS; Jeff Coles, SS; David DeArmas, K/P; Wilbur Gilliard, TB; Brian Gleason, DT; Dan Jones, G; Monte Nowden, SE; Lamont Parker, CB; Henry Thompson, LB; Pat Walsh, OT.

Strengths: The Huskies may have one of the best secondaries in the league in Parker and transfers Austin (North Carolina State) and Coles (Temple). By I-AA standards, the offensive line is huge, and four of five starters return. DeArmas led the Yankee with a 40.5-yard punting average and connected on 10 of 14 field-goal attempts. Gilliard (2,057 yards) is the third-leading rusher in school history.

Weaknesses: Holtz must impress upon his players the value of ball possession. UConn lost 16 fumbles and had 16 passes intercepted last season. Two quarterbacks with starting experience return, but neither has distinguished himself. A "Help Wanted" sign is out at linebacker too, where three starters have departed.

Outlook: A move to I-A may be forthcoming, but first the Huskies must demonstrate some consistency in I-AA. Holtz signed five running backs to go with Gilliard and the veteran blockers. Now the trick is to improve on defense and find a quarterback who can handle the ball without turning it over.

Schedule: New Hampshire, Sept. 9; Central Connecticut State, Sept. 16; Buffalo, Sept. 23; at Yale, Sept. 30; at Villanova, Oct. 7; at Maine, Oct. 14; at Rhode Island, Oct. 21; Northeastern, Oct. 28; Boston University, Nov. 4; at James Madison, Nov. 11; Massachusetts, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Huskies. **Site:** Storrs, Conn.

5. MAINE

Coach: Jack Cosgrove (6-18, 2 years).

1994 record: 3-8. Yankee New England: 2-6/T10th.

Top players: Ray Baur, FB; Alon Byers, CB; Derek Carter, FS; Ross Fichthorn, LB; Brian Gaine, TE; Bob Jameson, TB; George McDonald, DE; Andre Pam, TB; James Rice, WR; Steve Sinson, G.

Strengths: The Black Bears, with all of their offensive linemen back as well as Jameson, Baur and Pam, should be able to run the ball. Middle man Fichthorn is one of the league's better linebackers.

Weaknesses: Maine didn't do much offensively last season (it ranked next to last in both scoring and total offense in the league) and will start an inexperienced quarterback in '95. Steve Knight, the Bears' leading ground-gainer last year, is gone. The defensive line lost three of four starters.

Outlook: The Bears probably will try to pound people with the running game until they can get a green quarterback some game snaps. Playing solid defense early may be the key for a team that has had trouble scoring more than a couple of touchdowns a game.

Schedule: Lock Haven (Pa.), Sept. 2; at Rhode Island, Sept. 9; at Boston University, Sept. 16; James Madison, Sept. 30; at Buffalo, Oct. 7; Connecticut, Oct. 14; at New Hampshire, Oct. 21; at Delaware, Oct. 28; Massachusetts, Nov. 4; Northeastern, Nov. 11; at Central Florida, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1989.

Nickname: Black Bears. **Site:** Orono, Maine.

6. RHODE ISLAND

Coach: Floyd Keith (5-17, 2 years; 28-34-2 overall, 5 years).

1994 record: 2-9. Yankee New England: 2-6/T5th.

Top players: Bobby Apper, WR; Lucien Belanger, LB; Cy Butler, WR; Camellia Cruz, RB; Lou D'Agostino, DE; Frank Ferrara, DE; Chris Hixson, QB; Lathon Jones, LB; Chris Lawson, DB; Paul Scoffone, OL.

Strengths: The passing game is potent. Hixson missed the final two games of 1994 with a shoulder injury and still threw for 2,123 yards and 13 touchdowns. Butler and Apper ranked 1-2 among Yankee receivers in passes caught, and Rhode Island finished second in the league in passing yardage. Three young linebackers return, led by Jones, who paced the Rams in tackles as a freshman last year.

Weaknesses: Rhode Island was the worst rushing team in the league last year (71.2 yards) and three starters on the line must be replaced. Rams quarterbacks throw 18 interceptions. Defensively, URI gave up a lot of big plays and allowed 29.8 points per game. The defensive line needs bulk.

Outlook: How many 37-35 games can the Rams survive? Until its green defense and running game come around, Rhode Island will depend on Hixson, Butler and Apper to carry the day. It's a heavy load.

Schedule: at Delaware State, Sept. 2; Maine, Sept. 9; at New Hampshire, Sept. 16; at Brown, Sept. 23; Massachusetts, Sept. 30; at William & Mary, Oct. 7; at Boston University, Oct. 14; Connecticut, Oct. 21; Villanova, Nov. 4; Hofstra, Nov. 11; Delaware, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1985.

Nickname: Rams. **Site:** Kingston, R.I.

Text by John O'Connor

Because coach is no ordinary Joe, Robert Morris may be extraordinary

By CHUCK FINDER

Here was Joe Walton, a veteran of 35 NFL years, becoming a first-time college football coach of a first-time college football team. Starting from scratch at age 57.

Walton surprised many in July 1993 when he chose to make his new start at Division I-AA Robert Morris, which had never fielded a football team. Walton was hired with a mandate to prepare Robert Morris—a private institution of 5,500 students in Corapolis, Pa., about 15 miles west of downtown Pittsburgh—for competition in 1994.

"They had nothing," Walton said. "No footballs. No equipment. No players. No nothing."

No problem.

In 17 months, Walton, who coached the Jets to a 53-57-1 mark and two playoff appearances from 1983-89, and veteran NFL assistant Dan Radakovich (aka "Bad Rad," a native of the Pittsburgh area) molded an initial group of around 110 non-scholarship players into a unit that finished 7-1-1.

The Colonials enjoyed so much success so quickly that when the Eastern College Athletic Conference failed to issue a bid to Robert Morris for the league's annual post-season bowl—instead choosing 6-4 Wagner—there was grumbling on campus.

Just think: Robert Morris wasn't sure it would win a game during its maiden voyage, and it ended the season by being snubbed by the ECAC's bowl committee.

This was a team Walton, now 59, began to build from a cubbyhole office, making telephone calls, canvassing Pennsylvania and Ohio for players willing to pay their own tuition. Some of the players hadn't worn a uniform in years. One came from a culinary school, three others from a military academy in Boonville, Mo. A starting defensive tackle weighed 350 pounds. The starting middle linebacker was a freshman who began fall drills as the first-team quarterback.

"It was a bit of a mystery to me that we could win early," said Walton, who last coached in 1991, when he was the Pittsburgh Steelers' offensive coordinator.

When Walton arrived at Robert Morris, he brought a playbook similar to the one he used as an NFL offensive coordinator in Washington, Pittsburgh and New York, where he served as the Jets' coordinator in 1981-82 before becoming coach. He lasted seven years as Jets coach. After he was fired, he worked two years for the Steelers before losing his job when Chuck Noll retired after the '91 season.

Walton, a former All-America end at the University of Pittsburgh, didn't want to leave the area. Thus, he worked in the moving business in his hometown of Beaver Falls, Pa.

But Walton missed coaching. To help fill the void, he took his wife, Ginger, to small-college games around the area. But he ached for action.



Joe Walton never had coached collegiately before taking over at Robert Morris.

In June 1993, Robert Morris announced it intended to start a football program. Eight weeks later, Walton was in his cubbyhole. One of the first things he did was call Radakovich, who had last worked in football as assistant head coach/offensive line with Cleveland in 1990. (Radakovich left Robert Morris to become the Rams' offensive line coach in February.)

"Football is the same at any level," Walton said. "It's the competition. It's the challenge. The excitement of game day. All I know is, right now I'm enjoying what I'm doing. I don't need money, so that's not a factor. Who knows how long I'll do it. But I'm glad I did it."

So is Robert Morris. The players, from 12 states, added about \$1.5 million to the college coffers. The dormitories were filled for the first time in eight years. Newspapers from across the Northeast corridor wrote about Walton and Robert Who?

"The first year, you call and nobody has heard of Robert Morris," Walton said. "We don't have to explain who we are anymore."

Said Robert Morris President Edward A. Nicholson: "I had jokingly said, 'If we had two Nobel Prize winners, we would not have gotten as much publicity.'"

Four home games, played at a nearby high school, attracted 20,783 fans. Walton now dreams of an on-campus stadium and upgrading the schedule.

"It's going to take at least three years of recruiting to be a solid program," Walton said. "But it has been an adventure. It has been an amazing adventure." ♦

Chuck Finder is a sportswriter for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

INDEPENDENTS

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. YOUNGSTOWN ST. | 14. WOFFORD |
| 2. CENTRAL FLORIDA* | 15. TOWSON STATE |
| 3. TROY STATE | 16. DAVIDSON |
| 4. LIBERTY | 17. CS-SACRAMENTO |
| 5. Hofstra | 18. CS-NORTHRISE |
| 6. SAMFORD | 19. SOUTHERN UTAH |
| 7. ALA.-BIRMINGHAM | 20. C. CONNECTICUT ST. |
| 8. CAL POLY-SLB | 21. ST. FRANCIS |
| 9. HAMPTON | 22. ST. MARY'S |
| 10. JACKSONVILLE ST. | 23. MIDMOUTH |
| 11. WAGNER | 24. BUFFALO |
| 12. WESTERN KENTUCKY | 25. CHARLESTON SOUTHERN |
| 13. BIRMINGHAM | |

*Eligibility to compete for I-AA title won't be known until August.

ALL-INDEPENDENTS TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	TODD CLEVELAND, C. Florida	5-8/170	Soph
WR	COURTNEY FREEMAN, Liberty	5-10/165	Soph
TE	CHRIS BEHAN, Buffalo	6-1/222	Sr
T	BOB HALL, Troy State	6-1/285	Sr
T	JASON BANNAN, CS-Sacramento	6-5/280	Sr
G	JOHN INGRAM, Jacksonville St.	6-2/240	Sr
G	DAVE FIORE, Hofstra	6-4/275	Sr
C	BRIAN BIXLER, W. Kentucky	6-3/250	Sr
QB	MARK BRUNGARD, Youngstown St.	6-1/202	Sr
RB	MARQUETTE SMITH, C. Florida	5-7/195	Sr
RB	TIM HALL, Robert Morris	6-0/215	Sr

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
L	JERMAINE HOPKINS, Youngstown St.	5-11/222	Sr
L	ROBERT LESLIE, Ala. Birmingham	6-2/225	Sr
L	JEFF GALLEYAN, Southern Utah	6-2/250	Jr
LB	LEON JONES, Youngstown St.	6-0/222	Sr
LB	DAN McGRATH, W. Kentucky	6-2/196	Sr
LB	DAVID LONG, Liberty	6-0/248	Jr
LB	MARCO CALISE, Towson State	6-1/221	Sr
CB	MARVIN BROWN, CS-Sacramento	6-0/180	Sr
CB	RICHARD YOUNG, Troy State	6-0/195	Sr
S	COREY BINFORD, W. Kentucky	5-11/193	Sr
S	BRIAN CLARK, Hofstra	6-3/205	Sr

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
K	CHARLIE PIERCE, C. Florida	6-1/170	Jr
P	SCOTT HOLMES, Samford	6-3/203	Sr
KR	TODD CLEVELAND, C. Florida	5-8/170	Soph

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

TODD CLEVELAND
WR, Central Florida



DEFENSE:

LEON JONES
LB, Youngstown State

I-AA INDEPENDENTS TEAM CHARTS

1. YOUNGSTOWN STATE

Coach: Jim Tressel (84-33-2, 9 years)

1994 record: 14-0-1 (including 4-0 in I-AA playoffs)

Top players: Darnell Bracy, WR; Mark Brungard, QB; Paul Conn, DT; Mack Gilchrist, FB; Jermaine Hopkins, DE; Philip Jean-Baptiste, LB; Andre Jethroe, DT; Leon Jones, LB; Tom Pillingham, LB; Tom Pugliese, CB; Brian Tarlesky, TE.

Strengths: Jones, the best linebacker in I-AA, and Hopkins are impact defenders. The smart, efficient Brungard takes aim at a third consecutive national title.

Weaknesses: The Penguins must replace their top rusher and receiver. The losses of center Chris Sammarone and defensive back Lester Weaver will be hard to offset.

Outlook: Tressel, who has led Youngstown to three of the past four I-AA titles, was wooed by the Miami Hurricanes in the off-season but opted to stay put. The Penguins might have enough talent to reward him with a fifth consecutive trip to the title game.

Schedule: at Kent, Sept. 2; Stephen F. Austin, Sept. 9; Surry, Sept. 16; at McNeese State, Sept. 23; at Delaware, Oct. 7; Central Michigan, Oct. 14; Wingate (N.C.), Oct. 21; Indiana State, Oct. 28; at Akron, Nov. 4; Buffalo, Nov. 11; Illinois State, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1994

Nickname: Penguins. Site: Youngstown, Ohio

2. CENTRAL FLORIDA

Coach: Gene McDowell (70-44, 10 years)

1994 record: 7-4

Top players: Todd Cleveland, WR/KR; Dante Culpepper, QB; Gerod Davis, FB; Corries Hardy, DT; Charlie Pierce, P/K; Allen Powell, CB; Nalua Reddick, LB; Marquette Smith, TB; Chris Tabacoff, G; Chris Wynn, C.

Strengths: Cleveland is a game-breaker as a receiver and returner. Smith and Davis are the best 1-2 backfield punch in I-AA. Pierce's leg will win games.

Weaknesses: Not many. Fourteen starters are gone, but a wealth of talented players will fill the void. Culpepper, Florida's prep Mr. Football last fall, is a dynamite prospect, but few freshman quarterbacks shine.

Outlook: Central Florida moves to I-A in '96 and may choose to award more than 65 scholarships this year to prepare. If so, this solid unit won't be eligible for postseason play in its final I-AA season.

Schedule: Eastern Kentucky, Aug. 31; Carson-Newman (Tenn.), Sept. 8; at Florida State, Sept. 23; at McNeese State, Sept. 30; Samford, Oct. 7; Liberty, Oct. 14; at Hawaii, Oct. 21; at Northeast Louisiana, Oct. 28; Bethune-Cookman, Nov. 4; Troy State, Nov. 11; Maine, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1993

Nickname: Knights. Site: Orlando

3. TROY STATE

Coach: Larry Blakeney (35-13-1, 4 years)

1994 record: 8-4 (including 0-1 in I-AA playoffs)

Top players: Daniel Brady, WR; Arnd Gregory, TB; Bob Hall, OT; Kerry Jenkins, OT (transfer/LSU); Pratt Lyons, DT (transfer/Utah State); Andree Maxwell, LB; Stacy Murry, DL; Jeremy Rowell, QB; Derrick Washington, FB; Keith Williams, OT; Ted Yarbrough, TB; Richard Young, CB.

Strengths: Once again, Blakeney has brought in I-A transfers who will help, including Jenkins and Lyons, who was a star in the Big West. Hall and Williams are two of I-AA's top offensive tackles.

Weaknesses: Troy State's rich stable of explosive receivers finally has run dry. The Trojans have little depth at linebacker.

Outlook: Members of Blakeney's first recruiting class are seniors. Rowell is a big-play quarterback who may take the Trojans deep into the playoffs.

Schedule: East Tennessee State, Sept. 2; Northwestern State, Sept. 9; at Nicholls State, Sept. 16; at Alabama State, Sept. 23; Western Kentucky, Sept. 30; at Northeast Louisiana, Oct. 7; at Charleston Southern, Oct. 14; Jacksonville State, Oct. 21; Alabama-Birmingham, Oct. 28; at Central Florida, Nov. 11; at Samford, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1994

Nickname: Trojans. Site: Troy, Ala.

4. LIBERTY

Coach: Sam Rutigliano (38-28, 8 years)

1994 record: 5-6

Top players: Anthony Chiles, QB; Kelvin Cochran, LB; Eric Colvard, P; Tony Dews, TE; Courtney Freeman, WR; Craig Henry, DB; David Long, LB; J.T. Morris, RB; Jerry Scranlon, OL; Lawrence Worthington, RB.

Strengths: Chiles and Morris combine to give the Flames one of I-AA's best backfields. Colvard is a tremendous weapon at punter. The offensive line returns four starters.

Weaknesses: Liberty lacks proven receivers, which could cause Rutigliano to scrap the one-back set. All-time scoring leader Daniel Whitehead must be replaced at kicker.

Outlook: How well Morris returns from off-season hip surgery will determine how high Liberty climbs in the rankings. Adding former Vanderbilt coach George MacIntyre as defensive coordinator should help Rutigliano keep the Flames stocked.

Schedule: West Virginia Tech, Sept. 2; at VMI, Sept. 9; Morgan State, Sept. 16; at Delaware State, Sept. 23; at Hofstra, Sept. 29; at Central Florida, Oct. 14; Wofford, Oct. 21; at Charleston Southern, Oct. 28; Hampton, Nov. 4; Georgia Southern, Nov. 11; Western Kentucky, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Flames. Site: Lynchburg, Va.

5. HOFSTRA

Coach: Joe Gardi (38-13-2, 5 years)

1994 record: 8-1-1

Top players: Kharon Brown, QB; Brian Clark, FS; Hayward Cromarhe, RB; Dave Eltinger, K; Dave Fiore, OT; Owen Gardner, C; Nick Johnson, WR; Eugene McAleer, LB; Jim Shannon, DT; Ty Sunday, CB.

Strengths: Clark is a first-rate defensive back who led for the lead in I-AA with nine interceptions. Fiore is a bona fide All-America lineman.

Weaknesses: Three starters must be replaced from a defensive line that helped Hofstra rank No. 2 in I-AA against the rush.

Outlook: The Flying Dutchmen added football scholarships for the first time and had an excellent recruiting year. Their toughest challenge will come in their last game, at Marshall. By then, Hofstra may be a top 20 team.

Schedule: Nicholls State, Sept. 2; at Holy Cross, Sept. 9; Lafayette, Sept. 16; at Winona State, Sept. 23; Liberty, Sept. 29; at Cal State Sacramento, Oct. 7; Charleston Southern, Oct. 21; Buffalo, Oct. 27; at Fordham, Nov. 4; at Rhode Island, Nov. 11; at Marshall, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Flying Dutchmen. Site: Hempstead, N.Y.

6. SAMFORD

Coach: Pete Hurt (4-6-1, 1 year)

1994 record: 4-6-1

Top players: Mike Dale, DE; Robert Dean, G; Scott Holmes, P; Brad Mangus, LB; Lance Mattea, C; Mike Porter, WR; Derek Smith, TB; Eric Turner, CB; Shawn Williams, FB; Bart Yancey, QB.

Strengths: The offense, including Yancey and his protection, is experienced. Smith's return to tailback could generate excitement in the backfield. Holmes is a steady punter.

Weaknesses: There's plenty of athletic ability on defense, just not much experience or depth.

Outlook: The schedule is tough, but not impossible. After two coaching changes in two years, Hurt's second season should be a tonic for the Bulldogs.

Schedule: Arkansas-Monticello, Sept. 2; at Austin Peay, Sept. 9; Tennessee Tech, Sept. 16; at Nicholls State, Sept. 30; at Central Florida, Oct. 7; Jacksonville State, Oct. 14; Stephen F. Austin, Oct. 21; at Alcorn State, Oct. 28; Morgan State, Nov. 4; at UT Martin, Nov. 11; Troy State, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1992

Nickname: Bulldogs. Site: Birmingham, Ala.

7. ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM

Coach: Watson Brown (1st year; 32-77-1 overall, 10 years)

1994 record: 7-4

Top players: Thomas Banks, RB; Cedrick Buchannon, WR; Justin Craft, CB; Rodney Hudson, QB; Jackie Hurst, DT; Robert Leslie, DE; Izell Reese, FS; Keith Register, OL; Keith Roland, FB; Kevin Thomason, K.

Strengths: Hudson, a Mississippi State transfer, was a prep All-America who helped his Georgia high school to the mythical national title in '91. The Blazers have 11 other former I-A players, many at key positions. Brown and his staff boast a combined 110 years of I-A experience.

Weaknesses: Fifteen starters—and the entire coaching staff—will be new. The defensive line lost both tackles.

Outlook: The Blazers, who began as a Division I program in '91, have their eyes on '96, when they jump to I-A. Five tough road games will jeopardize UAB's streak of four consecutive winning seasons.

Schedule: Alabama State, Sept. 2; at SW Louisiana, Sept. 9; Jacksonville State, Sept. 16; at Western Kentucky, Sept. 23; at Middle Tennessee State, Sept. 30; Wofford, Oct. 7; at North Texas, Oct. 14; at Troy State, Oct. 28; Charleston Southern, Nov. 4; Knoxville (Tenn.) College, Nov. 11; Miles College (Ala.), Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Blazers. Site: Birmingham, Ala.

8. CAL POLY-SAN LUIS OBISPO

Coach: Andre Patterson (7-4, 1 year)

1994 record: 7-4

Top players: David Brown, DB; Mike Fisher, QB; Alex Garwood, LB; Chris Latino, LB; Hiroshi Ono, WR; Ryan Thomas, WR/KR; Jonathan Trotter, LB; James Tutill, K; Antonio Warren, RB; Bryan Williams, OL.

Strengths: Fisher is the school's all-time passing leader. Patterson's successful debut energized the program. The Mustangs ranked fifth in I-AA in rushing defense last year.

Weaknesses: The offensive line returns just one starter. The secondary also will have new starters.

Outlook: The school that produced John Madden has some gritty players worthy of All-Madden Team consideration. Another winning season appears likely.

Schedule: Western Montana, Sept. 2; Idaho State, Sept. 9; Montana State, Sept. 16; at Weber State, Sept. 23; at Southern Utah, Oct. 7; at Sonoma State (Calif.), Oct. 14; Cal State Sacramento, Oct. 21; at St. Mary's, Oct. 28; at Cal State Northridge, Nov. 4; at UC Davis, Nov. 11; Eastern Washington, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Mustangs. Site: San Luis Obispo, Calif.

9. HAMPTON

Coach: Joe Taylor (31-4-1, 3 years; 92-33-4 overall, 11 years)

1994 record: 10-1 (in Division II)

Top players: Malcolm Benson, RB; Roderick Briggs, OT; Tim Hall, LB; Hugh Hunter, DE; Mike Jenkins, WR; Anthony Smith, FB; Lamonte Still, RB; Sekou Walton, CB; Kevin Williams, SS.

Strengths: The Pirates return their top three rushers, all their receivers and three starters on the offensive line. Still will emerge as one of I-AA's brightest stars.

Weaknesses: Williams is talented, but he's only a freshman. Three pivotal defensive players, including stellar linebacker John Meredith, must be replaced.

Outlook: The Pirates, crowned champion of black college football by one wire service last year, play their most ambitious schedule yet as they move up from Division II. If they survive the first month, they could raise eyebrows.

Schedule: at Morehouse (Ga.), Sept. 2; at Howard, Sept. 9; Grambling State (at E. Rutherford, N.J.), Sept. 16; at Southern, Sept. 23; Bethune-Cookman (at Jacksonville), Sept. 30; Delaware State, Oct. 7; at Norfolk (Va.) State, Oct. 14; Elizabeth City (N.C.) State, Oct. 28; at Liberty, Nov. 4; Fayetteville (N.C.) State, Nov. 11; Morgan State, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Pirates. Site: Hampton, Va.

10. JACKSONVILLE STATE

Coach: Bill Burgess (76-34-4, 10 years)

1994 record: 4-7 (in Division II)

Top players: Jason Hays, G; John Ingram, G; Arnel Jackson, RB; David Mahaffey, DT; Jason Reynolds, RB; Riley Reynolds, DE.

Strengths: Ingram has All-America talent, and Reynolds is a player Burgess has picked up a talented transfer group that could pay off immediately.

Weaknesses: Only four starters return on defense. That won't help the Gamecocks cope with seven road games, including three against I-AA state rivals Troy State, Samford and Auburn-Birmingham.

Outlook: A road victory in '94 over I-A Northeast Louisiana was the highlight of Jacksonville State's final compliance season for I-AA status. The Gamecocks won the '92 Division II title and are in striking distance of becoming a I-AA force.

Schedule: at Sam Houston State, Sept. 2; West Georgia, Sept. 9; at Auburn-Birmingham, Sept. 16; North Carolina A&T, Sept. 23; Knoxville (Tenn.) College, Sept. 30; at Western Kentucky, Oct. 7; at Samford, Oct. 14; at Troy State, Oct. 21; at Arkansas State, Oct. 28; Western Illinois, Nov. 11; at Southwest Missouri State, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Gamecocks. Site: Jacksonville, Ala.

11. WAGNER

Coach: Walt Hamoline (110-37-2, 14 years)

1994 record: 6-5

Top players: Justin Abel, LB; Tony Capua, OL; Vince DeRomo, OL; Carl Frankie, P/K; Vincent Fyle, DE; Rick Grimaldi, OL; Sean Hurley, WR; Kilo Lockwood, RB; Jason Mielick, CB (transfer/Cincinnati); Jason Scholz, DE; Bill Sommers, LB; Raylene Ward, LB.

Strengths: Lockwood and Scholz were among I-AA's best at their positions last season. The linebackers and offensive line should excel.

Weaknesses: The Seahawks ranked last in I-AA in kickoff return average last season. Quarterback Jason Cue, who rewrote the team's offensive record book, must be replaced.

Outlook: Wagner knows how to win, and this season should be no different. The only thing that may keep the Seahawks from the I-AA playoffs is a suspect schedule.

Schedule: Stony Brook (N.Y.), Sept. 16; Towson State, Sept. 23; at St. Peter's, Sept. 29; St. Francis, Oct. 7; at Robert Morris, Oct. 14; Iowa, Oct. 21; Central Connecticut State, Oct. 28; at Monmouth, Nov. 4; at San Diego, Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None

Nickname: Seahawks. Site: Staten Island, N.Y.

12. WESTERN KENTUCKY

Coach: Jack Harbaugh (28-38, 6 years; 53-63-3 overall, 11 years)

1994 record: 5-6

Top players: Corey Binford, SS; Brian Bixler, C; Anthony Floyd, TB; Daryl Houston, QB; Sean Longstrech, DE; Stuart MacKenzie, G; Dan McGrath, LB; Latravie Powell, FB; Will Sweeney, K; Sidney Williams, WB.

Strengths: Floyd ranked among the top I-AA rushers in '94. Bixler is a quality center. Binford and McGrath are defensive leaders, and Sweeney is a consistent scorer.

Weaknesses: The offensive line is one of several areas lacking experience. The top four leaders are gone.

Outlook: The Hilltoppers had to search the valleys for new players, but the talent is there to keep this rebuilding year from being a disaster.

Schedule: Murray State, Sept. 2; at Eastern Kentucky, Sept. 9; at Austin Peay, Sept. 16; Alabama-Birmingham, Sept. 23; at Troy State, Sept. 30; Jacksonville State, Oct. 7; Eastern Illinois, Oct. 14; at Indiana State, Oct. 21; at Southern Illinois, Nov. 4; at Liberty, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: 1988

Nickname: Hilltoppers. Site: Bowling Green, Ky.

I-AA INDEPENDENTS TEAM CHARTS

13. ROBERT MORRIS

Coach: Joe Walton (7-1-1, 1 year)

1994 record: 7-1-1

Top players: Jeff Cohn, FL, Andrew Dorsey, TE, Brian Dunn, S, Odell Felder, DT, Robert Frazier, SE, Tim Hall, FB, Nate List, LB, Fred Manalac, LB, Jake Newman, QB, Dante Payne, S.

Strengths: Hall, a speedy fullback, set a I-AA record by averaging 8.7 yards per carry last year. The passing game is one of I-AA's most efficient. The Colonials led I-AA in turnover margin.

Weaknesses: Newman was sacked nearly 40 times last season, so the offensive line needs serious attention. The kicking game requires work, too.

Outlook: Walton surprised many by leading the Colonials to seven victories in their first season of football. Nearly 40 newcomers should help Robert Morris continue its climb to I-AA respectability.

Schedule: Waynesburg (Pa.), Sept. 2; at Monmouth, Sept. 9; at Duquesne, Sept. 16; Central Connecticut State, Sept. 30; at Gannon (Pa.), Oct. 7; Wagner, Oct. 14; Mercyhurst (Pa.), Oct. 21; at Towson State, Oct. 28; at Bethany (W.Va.), Nov. 4; St. Francis, Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Colonials. **Site:** Corapolis, Pa.

14. WOFFORD

Coach: Mike Ayers (47-30-1, 7 years; 58-51-2 overall, 10 years)

1994 record: 5-8 (in Division II)

Top players: Mitch Flannery, NT, Michael Frazier, LB, Paul Humphries, CB, Ryan Jinks, FB, Ashley Kigore, QB, Joey Padgett, G, Andre Patrick, LB, Tripp Weed, DE, Dan Williams, C.

Strengths: The top two tacklers, Patrick and Frazier, return. Young but athletic running backs will be asked to step up quickly in the wake of the attack.

Weaknesses: The top three halfbacks from last season are gone and the secondary also sustained heavy losses. Who will replace star kicker Brian Porzio?

Outlook: Facility improvements (Wofford is the summer camp home for the Carolina Panthers) should help recruiting. The Terriers' first year in I-AA will be rough, but it'll be a good start for the future.

Schedule: at Lenoir-Rhyne (N.C.), Sept. 2; at The Citadel, Sept. 9; at Furman, Sept. 16; Catawba (N.C.), Sept. 23; at Presbyterian (S.C.), Sept. 30; at Alabama-Birmingham, Oct. 7; Newberry (S.C.), Oct. 14; at Liberty, Oct. 21; Elon (N.C.), Nov. 4; at Charleston Southern, Nov. 11; Dayton, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Terriers. **Site:** Spartanburg, S.C.

15. TOWSON STATE

Coach: Gordy Combs (21-8, 3 years)

1994 record: 8-2

Top players: John Bardak, DE, Robbie Bundy, OT, Marco Calise, LB, Amadi Eze, WR, Dan Hiale, LB, David Snyder, C, Steve Szymanski, TE, Shawn Ward, WR, Devin Witherspoon, LB.

Strengths: Six starters are back from a defense that forced 31 turnovers and ranked 14th in scoring defense.

Weaknesses: All-time Maryland college passing leader Dan Crowley and nine starters from the 10th-ranked offense in I-AA are gone. Mark Orlando leaves a huge void at receiver and kick returner.

Outlook: The Tigers' best chance in years to earn a playoff berth eluded them last season. Things won't get easier, as the school no longer offers scholarships.

Schedule: Butler, Sept. 9; at Dayton, Sept. 16; at Wagner, Sept. 23; Monmouth, Sept. 30; at Central Connecticut State, Oct. 7; at St. Francis, Oct. 14; Bucknell, Oct. 21; Robert Morris, Oct. 28; at American International (Mass.), Nov. 4; Southern Connecticut, Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Tigers. **Site:** Towson, Md.

16. DAVIDSON

Coach: Tim Landis (9-11, 2 years)

1994 record: 3-7

Top players: A.R. Barrington, LB, Bo Bartholomew, DE, James Cassidy, DL, John Cowlin, OL, Adam Geas, OL, Hamilton Hill, QB, Mike Lassiter, OL, Kirk Roberts, WR, Will Robinson, LB.

Strengths: The Wildcats ranked fourth in total defense in I-AA but didn't play a I-AA schedule. Still, the bulk of the defense returns, led by Cassidy and Bartholomew.

Weaknesses: Depth always is a problem at Davidson, which is Division I-AA in name only. Newcomers at linebacker and defensive back will be counted on to continue a strong defensive tradition.

Outlook: The Wildcats will win, thanks to a schedule lacking I-AA opposition. But anything short of an 11-0 mark won't capture anyone's imagination beyond the campus.

Schedule: University of the South (Tenn.), Sept. 9; Maryville (Tenn.), Sept. 16; at Emory & Henry (Va.), Sept. 23; at Guilford (N.C.), Sept. 30; at Washington & Lee (Pa.), Oct. 7; Methodist (N.C.), Oct. 14; at Randolph-Macon (Va.), Oct. 21; Hampden-Sydney (Va.), Oct. 28; at Centre (Ky.), Nov. 4; Bridgewater (Va.), Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Wildcats. **Site:** Davidson, N.C.

17. CAL STATE SACRAMENTO

Coach: To be announced.

1994 record: 5-5

Top players: Jason Bannan, OT, Tom Beem, SS, Marvin

Brown, CB, Brian Dauben, QB, Jake Hoffart, WR, Tyler Jesse, QB, Darren Mason, LB, Tom Moses, C, Damon Wright, FS.

Strengths: Brown, Beem and Wright form one of the best secondaries in I-AA. Bannan has the size and strength to play at the next level.

Weaknesses: The skill positions on offense have little or no experience. Not having a coach for spring practice was a major setback.

Outlook: The school was set to drop football until a student referendum saved it—for now. The coaching staff and players won't enjoy looking over their shoulders waiting for more bad news.

Schedule: at Northern Arizona, Sept. 9; at Eastern Washington, Sept. 16; Chico (Calif.) State, Sept. 23; Portland State, Sept. 30; Holstra, Oct. 7; Southwest Texas State, Oct. 14; at Cal Poly-SLO, Oct. 21; UC Davis, Oct. 28; St. Mary's, Nov. 4; Southern Utah, Nov. 11; at Cal State Northridge, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Hornets. **Site:** Sacramento, Calif.

18. CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE

Coach: David Baldwin (1st year)

1994 record: 3-7

Top players: Matt Ormalez, K, Joe Piero, LB, David Romines, WR/P, Andrew Rose, LB, Jim Rose, CB, Darren Walton, FB, James Woods, S.

Strengths: Romines is a dependable receiver and punt returner. Walton and Ormalez are steady. Woods knows how to pressure quarterbacks.

Weaknesses: Fifteen starters must be replaced, including nine on offense. The punting game was among the worst in I-AA last season.

Outlook: The Matadors have only two years of I-AA experience and neither was much fun. With their toughest games coming on the road, count on another losing season.

Schedule: Menlo College (Calif.), Sept. 9; at Idaho State, Sept. 16; at Northern Arizona, Sept. 23; at SW Texas State, Oct. 7; Western New Mexico, Oct. 14; at UC-Davis, Oct. 21; Southern Utah, Oct. 28; at Cal Poly-SLO, Nov. 4; St. Mary's, Nov. 11; Cal State Sacramento, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Matadors. **Site:** Northridge, Calif.

19. SOUTHERN UTAH

Coach: Jack Bishop (78-85-4, 14 years)

1994 record: 4-7

Top players: Marian Bacon, LB, Dustin Connaughton, SS, Kevin Cuthbertson, WR/P, Micah Deckart, TE, Jeff Galyean, DE, Ben Hoskins, FB, Gary Perkins, RB, Rick Robins, QB.

Strengths: Hoskins and Cuthbertson are elder statesmen of an experienced offense. Galyean is a big plus at defensive end.

Weaknesses: The entire secondary is new, save for Connaughton, the team's leading leader a year ago. Talented junior-college transfers missed spring drills and will need time to adjust.

Outlook: The Thunderbirds were among I-AA's worst in turnover margin and pass-efficiency defense. Unless they improve in those areas, Southern Utah will finish under .500 again.

Schedule: Angelo State (Texas), Sept. 2; Montana Tech, Sept. 9; at Western State (Colo.), Sept. 16; at Idaho State, Sept. 23; at SW Texas State, Sept. 30; Cal Poly-SLO, Oct. 7; Nebraska-Kearney, Oct. 14; at St. Mary's, Oct. 21; at Cal State Northridge, Oct. 28; UC Davis, Nov. 4; at Cal State Sacramento, Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Thunderbirds. **Site:** Cedar City, Utah.

20. CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE

Coach: Sai Cinolirino (10-18, 3 years)

1994 record: 4-6

Top players: Michael Graham, G, Jerry Hamey, LB, Stan House, TB, David Jack, DT, John Lyons, C, Ed Poland, WR, Ed Zaskaly, LB.

Strengths: The linebacking corps is talented and deep.

Weaknesses: Depth is suspect and the offensive backfield and secondary must come up with consistent performers. The punting and punt-return teams need quick improvement.

Outlook: Cinolirino's past two seasons produced more wins (nine) than in the Blue Devils' previous three combined. But there are few signs his team will climb above .500.

Schedule: Albany (N.Y.), Sept. 9; at Connecticut, Sept. 16; C.W. Post (N.Y.), Sept. 23; at Robert Morris, Sept. 30; Towson State, Oct. 7; Siena, Oct. 14; at St. Francis, Oct. 21; at Wagner, Oct. 28; Southern Connecticut State, Nov. 4; at Monmouth, Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Blue Devils. **Site:** New Britain, Conn.

21. ST. FRANCIS

Coach: Frank Pergolizzi (25-33-2, 6 years)

1994 record: 2-7-1

Top players: George Arandas, OT, Jimbo Cowan, CB, Matt Marciel, G, Todd McMahon, OT, Elliot Miller, WR, Rick Roth, LB, Matt Weaver, FS.

Strengths: Marciel, Arandas and McMahon anchor a veteran offensive line. The secondary is talented and the linebackers stingy.

Weaknesses: The defensive line has little experience. Ditto the offensive backfield. St. Francis ranked 109th in I-AA in passing offense a year ago.

Outlook: Six home games will help, but half of the starting lineup is new. Without any semblance of a pass rush, the Red Flash will struggle again.

Schedule: Gannon (Pa.), Sept. 2; Duquesne, Sept. 9; Mariet,

Sept. 16; at Bethany (W.Va.), Sept. 23; at Mercyhurst (Pa.), Oct. 1; at Wagner, Oct. 7; Towson State, Oct. 14; Central Connecticut State, Oct. 21; Monmouth, Oct. 28; at Robert Morris, Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Red Flash. **Site:** Loretto, Pa.

22. ST. MARY'S

Coach: Mike Rasmussen (31-18-1, 5 years)

1994 record: 7-3

Top players: Bonner Cummings, RB, Eddie Ford, QB, Tim Hoyt, LB, Adam Mahlum, C, Domingo Ruiz, DT, Blake Tuffi, WR, David Walker, OT, Chang Weisberg, LB, Ed Williams, RB.

Strengths: Nine starters are back on offense. A strong kicking game returns the essential parts. Eight consecutive winning seasons have helped establish momentum.

Weaknesses: Six starters must be replaced on a defense that was third in I-AA against the rush. Ruiz is a solid pass rusher, but he can't do it alone.

Outlook: The Gaels have only 17 scholarships to work with. Still, they have enough talent to face a tough schedule with measured optimism.

Schedule: Sonoma State (Calif.), Sept. 2; Chico (Calif.) State, Sept. 9; at Weber State, Sept. 16; at Columbia, Sept. 23; at Humboldt State (Calif.), Sept. 30; UC Davis, Oct. 14; Southern Utah, Oct. 21; Cal Poly-SLO, Oct. 28; at Cal State Sacramento, Nov. 4; at Cal State Northridge, Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Gaels. **Site:** Moraga, Calif.

23. MONMOUTH

Coach: Kevin Callahan (9-7, 2 years)

1994 record: 7-2

Top players: Anthony Beke, LB, Tim Canavan, DE, David Lewis, DB, Joe Little, LB, John Mendos, LB, Ralph O'Neil, RB, Robert Ridley, KR, Dan Sabola, QB, Jim Varco, RB, Marcus Winters, WR.

Strengths: Monmouth's third season of football could be a charm for a team that returns 22 starters. The defense ranked high nationally in several categories last season.

Weaknesses: The Hawks lack size and a big-play running back. The defensive line will carry a huge burden since depth is a problem at linebacker and in secondary.

Outlook: Since adding football, Monmouth has more students, more alumni support and a handful of promising I-A transfers.

Schedule: at Marist, Sept. 2; at Robert Morris, Sept. 9; at St. Peter's, Sept. 16; St. John's, Sept. 23; at Towson State, Sept. 30; Mercyhurst (Pa.), Oct. 7; at Pace (N.Y.), Oct. 14; at St. Francis, Oct. 28; Wagner, Nov. 4; Central Connecticut State, Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Hawks. **Site:** West Long Branch, N.J.

24. BUFFALO

Coach: Craig Cirbus (1st year)

1994 record: 3-8

Top players: Chris Behan, TE, Vince Canosa, DE, Gerald Carlson, PK, Pete Conley, LB, Mark Dinardo, OT, Ed Ellis, OT, Terrence Fisher, DB, Jon Sandusky, C, Keith Warren, WR.

Strengths: Behan is one of I-AA's top tight ends. Conley leads an aggressive group of linebackers. Carlson's return from injury heals the Bulls' kicking game.

Weaknesses: A ton of players shuffled off from Buffalo, leaving big holes on the line and at quarterback.

Outlook: There aren't many winnable games on the schedule. A rerun of the 1993 season (1-10) is possible.

Schedule: Fordham, Sept. 2; Lafayette, Sept. 9; at Illinois State, Sept. 16; at Connecticut, Sept. 23; Villanova, Sept. 30; Maine, Oct. 7; Massachusetts, Oct. 14; at Holstra, Oct. 21; Central State (Ohio), Nov. 4; at Youngstown State, Nov. 11; Boston University, Nov. 18.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Bulls. **Site:** Buffalo

25. CHARLESTON SOUTHERN

Coach: David Dowd (9-33, 4 years)

1994 record: 0-11

Top players: Tony Bines, QB, Maurice Gerald, CB, Chuck Grier, DT, Mike Lazzari, LB, Tim McManus, G, Clay Moose, OT, Heath Siemon, WR, Luvert Smith, G, William Washington, LB.

Strengths: Experienced players return on offense, including four linemen. That could help the team's surest equation: Bines to Siemon, again and again.

Weaknesses: Can you run, kick or tackle? If so, the Buccaneers need you. Only one team in I-AA was worse in scoring defense. Nobody was worse in rushing defense and total defense.

Outlook: The Buccaneers nearly doubled their '93 scoring output in '94 but still gave up 46.9 points a game. Unless a rebuilt defense matures fast, another winless season awaits.

Schedule: at UT Chattanooga, Sept. 2; Presbyterian (S.C.), Sept. 9; at South Carolina State, Sept. 16; Ferrum (Va.), Sept. 23; at Morehead State, Sept. 30; at Newberry (S.C.), Oct. 7; Troy State, Oct. 14; at Holstra, Oct. 21; Liberty, Oct. 28; at Alabama-Birmingham, Nov. 4; Wofford, Nov. 11.

Last I-AA playoff appearance: None.

Nickname: Buccaneers. **Site:** Charleston, S.C.

Text by Carl Dubois.

SCOUTING DIVISION II

By JERRY FELTS

The North Alabama Lions, with 49 lettermen returning, will be trying to win their third consecutive national championship in 1995, a feat never before accomplished in Division II.

Only two other schools—Southwest Texas State (1981-82) and North Dakota State (1985-86)—have won back-to-back Division II national crowns. North Alabama joined that elite group with a 16-10 victory over Texas A&M-Kingsville in last year's Division II championship game in Florence, Ala.

Twenty starters, including 10 from a defense that ranked among the top four in four categories nationally, are back. Linebacker Ronald McKinnon, the Lions' top tackler in each of the past three seasons, is one of the leading contenders for the Harlon Hill Trophy, awarded each December to the Division II Player of the Year.

"Everybody in the program realizes what we could accomplish," Lions Coach Bobby Wallace said. "It doesn't have to be stressed. What we have to do is stress to them to be as good as they can be. It's a very special group of players we have in our program."

In addition to McKinnon, the Lions welcome back six others who earned All-America recognition last season.

NOTES: North Alabama owns a 27-game winning streak against Division II opponents, dating to a quarterfinal playoff loss to Jacksonville State in 1992. The Lions have beaten 13 nationally ranked Division II opponents in succession and have not lost a Gulf South Conference game since October 17, 1992. . . . The Gulf South, which has produced five of the past eight Division II national champions, welcomes three new members in 1995. Arkansas-Monticello, Arkansas Tech and Southern Arkansas have joined the conference from the NALA ranks and will begin play this fall. But the GSC may lose 1989 national champ Mississippi College, which announced in March that it will move to Division III in an effort to contain athletic costs. A decision was expected in June. . . . Portland State again will face one of the toughest schedules in the country. Division II runner-up Texas A&M-Kingsville, Division I-AA runner-up Boise State and Division I-AA quarterfinalist McNeese State are among the



Linebacker Ronald McKinnon is one of 20 returning starters for powerhouse North Alabama.

teams the Vikings play on the road. Portland State's 10 opponents combined for a 76-42 record in 1994. . . . Hillsdale (Mich.) College has won more games than any other Division II program. Entering its 104th season of competition in 1995, Hillsdale is 498-306-46 all-time. The Chargers' 500th victory could come as early as September 9 against St. Francis (Ill.). . . . Pittsburg (Kan.) State, which went 10-0 last season, is 95-4-1 in its past 100 regular-season games. The Gorillas carry an 18-game regular-season winning streak into the 1995 season and have not lost a regular-season home game since November 4, 1984 (and are 51-0-1 since). . . . Bentley (Mass.) College, a Division II non-scholarship program, has won 28 consecutive regular-season games, the longest current streak of any NCAA team. The Falcons led Division II in scoring defense, total defense and pass efficiency defense last season. . . . Olympia Fluellen, a defensive back at Clark Atlanta, intercepted three passes in a game twice as a freshman last season. ♦

Jerry Felts covers college football for the Florence (Ala.) TimesDaily.

DIVISION II TOP 10

PREDICTIONS

1. NORTH ALABAMA

Twenty returning starters lead the Lions in their quest to become the first school to win three consecutive titles.

2. NORTH DAKOTA STATE

The Bison offense is loaded, led by All-America center Brad Sennas and two-year starting quarterback Rob Hyland.

3. INDIANA (PA.)

There is plenty of talent on both sides of the ball as the Indians seek their eighth playoff berth in nine years.

4. TEXAS A&M-KINGSVILLE

Fourteen starters, including several statistical leaders, return from the national runner-up.

5. PORTLAND (ORE.) STATE

The Vikings face another brutal schedule, but should be able to earn their eighth trip to the playoffs in nine years.

6. PITTSBURG (KAN.) STATE

The 1991 national champs must replace seven defensive starters, including two statistical leaders.

7. NORTH DAKOTA

Coach Roger Thomas welcomes back 14 starters from a squad that advanced to the Division II semifinals.

8. FERRIS STATE (MICH.)

The Bulldogs are unbeaten in 29 consecutive regular-season games and have won three conference titles in a row.

9. CARSON-NEWMAN (TENN.)

The Eagles return all of their top offensive weapons from a team that narrowly lost to North Alabama in the playoffs.

10. CENTRAL ARKANSAS

With 15 returning starters from last year's 8-2 squad, the Bears should challenge North Alabama in the Gulf South Conference.

1994 PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND

Ferris State (Mich.) 43, West Chester (Pa.) 40
Indiana (Pa.) 35, Grand Valley State (Mich.) 27
Texas A&M-Kingsville 43, Western State (Colo.) 7
Portland State 29, Angelo State (Texas) 0
North Dakota State 18, Pittsburg (Kan.) State 12 (3 OT)
North Dakota 18, NE Missouri State 6
North Alabama 17, Carson-Newman (Tenn.) 13
Valdosta (Ga.) State 14, Albany (Ga.) State 7

QUARTERFINALS

Indiana 21, Ferris State 17
Texas A&M-Kingsville 21, Portland State 16
North Dakota 14, North Dakota State 7
North Alabama 27, Valdosta State 24

SEMIFINALS

North Alabama 35, North Dakota 7
Texas A&M-Kingsville 46, Indiana 30

CHAMPIONSHIP

North Alabama 16, Texas A&M-Kingsville 10

PRESEASON DIVISION II ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	Brian Penecale, West Chester (Pa.)	6-2/15	Sr.
WR	James Roe, Norfolk (Va.) State	6-2/190	Sr.
TE	Clarence Benford, Albany (Ga.) State	6-4/270	Sr.
L	Kevin Dogins, Texas A&M-Kingsville	6-2/280	Sr.
L	Jeremy O'Day, Edinboro (Pa.)	5-3/260	Sr.
L	Phil Schepens, Pittsburg (Kan.) State	6-1/281	Sr.
L	Brad Sennas, North Dakota State	6-0/256	Sr.
L	Jon Thompson, North Alabama	6-1/253	Sr.
QB	Grady Benton, West Texas A&M	6-3/200	Sr.
RB	Jarrett Anderson, NE Missouri State	6-1/210	Jr.
RB	Dennis Robinson, Indiana (Pa.)	5-10/185	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
L	Mark Callahan, North Dakota	6-2/285	Jr.
L	Marcus Keyes, North Alabama	6-3/310	Sr.
L	Steve Mellon, Carson-Newman (Tenn.)	6-2/295	Sr.
L	Jeff Turnage, Indiana (Pa.)	6-0/240	Sr.
LB	Ronald McKinnon, North Alabama	6-0/235	Sr.
LB	Mike Brooks, Ferris State (Mich.)	5-11/200	Sr.
LB	Greg Stokes, Angelo (Tex.) State	6-2/233	Sr.
CB	Olympia Fluellen, Clark Atlanta	6-1/185	Soph.
CB	Conrad Hamilton, Eastern New Mexico	5-9/187	Sr.
S	Scott Ewer, Hillsdale (Mich.)	6-0/205	Jr.
S	Chris Brown, Pittsburg (Kan.) State	5-11/172	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
K	Ryan Anderson, Northern Colorado	5-9/180	Sr.
P	Kevin Thomwell, Texas A&M-Kingsville	6-0/205	Soph.
KR	Kevin Cannon, Millersville (Pa.)	5-8/170	Sr.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE:

DENNIS ROBINSON, RB, Indiana (Pa.) Sr.

DEFENSE:

RONALD MCKINNON, LB, North Alabama, Sr.

SCOUTING DIVISION III

By JERRY FELTS

Twice in the past three years, Washington and Jefferson (Pa.) has served as something of a way station for teams en route to winning the NCAA Division III championship.

Washington and Jefferson lost in the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl (the Division III title game) in 1992 and '94, and still is seeking its first national crown. Thus, it's not surprising that the Presidents, who have advanced to postseason play six years in a row, have grown somewhat weary of watching others take home the trophy.

But 1995 could be the Presidents' year. They welcome back 18 starters and several key reserves from a squad that captured a record ninth consecutive Presidents' Athletic Conference championship last season but lost to Albion (Mich.), 38-15, in the Stagg Bowl.

"We had a strong year in 1994, and we think we have a good nucleus to work with this year," Washington and Jefferson Coach John Luckhardt said. "When you get to the national finals and don't play well, it's hard to know how people will respond."

"Physically, this team is capable of competing. Our seniors will determine if we have the willpower and determination to advance as far as we have in the past."

NOTES: Washington and Jefferson's streak of nine consecutive conference championships is the longest in the nation. Dickinson (Pa.) College has the second-longest streak with seven Centennial Conference crowns in a row. . . . St. John's (Minn.) Coach John Gagliardi needs seven victories to pass Bear Bryant for second place on the career coaching victories list. Gagliardi's 317-98-10 record ranks fourth all-time and second among active coaches behind Grambling's Eddie Robinson (397-143-15). Only Robinson, Bryant (323) and Pop Warner (319) have won more games than Gagliardi. . . . Tailbacks Ryan Lovins, Shane Davis and Kevin Coy of Loras (Iowa) College, who combined to rush for more than 1,800 yards and 22 touchdowns last season, go by the nickname "Natural Born Thrillers". . . . Springfield (Mass.) College begins a new chapter in its distinguished athletic history by joining the Division III ranks this season as a member of the Freedom Football Conference. Springfield



MICHAEL GARYS

Running back Mark Kacmarynski is a key player for Central (Iowa) Coach Ron Schipper.

was 5-5 in its final season in Division II. . . . Trinity (Texas) has one of the most favorable schedules in the nation. The Tigers play their first seven games at home and don't play on the road until October 28, when they are at Rhodes (Tenn.) College. In all, Trinity will play eight of its 10 regular-season games at home. . . . Lycoming (Pa.) hasn't lost to a team with a losing record since 1984, or 109 games ago. . . . When Williams and Amherst meet November 11 in Williamstown, Mass., it will mark the 110th meeting in the most-played rivalry in Division III (and fourth-most played in the nation). Williams leads the series 60-45-4 (the schools haven't played a tie game since 1906). . . . Central (Iowa) Coach Ron Schipper has piloted the Flying Dutchmen to 34 consecutive winning seasons, the all-time NCAA record for a coach. . . . Wisconsin-LaCrosse defensive coordinator Roland Christensen is entering his 34th season as a coach at the school. ♦

Jerry Felts covers college football for the Florence (Ala.) TimesDaily.

DIVISION III TOP 10

PREDICTIONS

1. WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON (PA.)

The Presidents return 18 starters from last year's team, which lost to Albion in the Division III final.

2. ST. JOHN'S (MINN.)

Legendary Coach John Gagliardi should pass Bear Bryant as the second-winningest coach in history sometime this season.

3. MOUNT UNION (OHIO)

The winningest Division III program during the 1990s returns 30 lettermen from last year's 10-2 squad.

4. WIDENER (PA.)

All-America defenders Antonio Moore and Blaise Coleman make the Pioneers serious contenders.

5. CENTRAL (IOWA)

The largest senior class in school history and two returning All-Americans should put the Dutch in contention.

6. ALBION (MICH.)

The defending national champs must replace several key contributors from 1994.

7. WISCONSIN-LACROSSE

Senior QB Craig Kusick and 16 other returning starters give the Eagles a wealth of experienced talent.

8. TRINITY (TEXAS)

Fourteen returning starters and a favorable schedule should help the Tigers earn a second consecutive postseason berth.

9. AUGUSTANA (ILL.)

Many of the principal players on last year's 8-2 playoff squad return for veteran Coach Bob Reade.

10. UNION (N.Y.)

An experienced defense (15 returning lettermen) should help the Dutchmen earn their third playoff berth since 1991.

1994 PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND

Mount Union (Ohio) 28, Allegheny (Pa.) 19
Albion (Mich.) 28, Augustana (Ill.) 21
Warburg (Iowa) 22, Central (Iowa) 21
St. John's (Minn.) 51, La Verne (Calif.) 12
Widener (Pa.) 14, Dickinson (Pa.) 0
Washington & Jefferson (Pa.) 28, Trinity (Texas) 0
Plymouth (N.H.) State 19, Kings Point (N.Y.) 18
Ithaca (N.Y.) 10, Buffalo State 7 (2 OT)

QUARTERFINALS

Albion 34, Mount Union 33
St. John's 42, Warburg 14
Washington & Jefferson 37, Widener 21
Ithaca 22, Plymouth State 7

SEMIFINALS

Washington & Jefferson 23, Ithaca 19
Albion 19, St. John's 18

CHAMPIONSHIP

Albion 38, Washington & Jefferson 15

PRESEASON DIVISION III ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	H/L/W/L	Class
WR	Mike Cook, Claremont Mudd-Scripps	6-3/185	Soph.
WR	Ryan Ditzel, Albright (Pa.)	6-0/192	Sr.
TE	Ryan Davis, St. Thomas (Minn.)	6-3/215	Sr.
L	Brian Campbell, Dickinson (Pa.)	6-2/237	Sr.
L	Doug Johnston, Wheaton (Ill.)	6-3/270	Sr.
L	Mike Jones, Washington & Jefferson (Pa.)	6-6/310	Sr.
L	Mike Robinson, Coe (Iowa)	6-6/260	Sr.
L	Greg Rosinski, Rose-Hulman (Ind.)	6-6/260	Sr.
QB	Terry Peebles, Hanover (Ind.)	6-0/180	Sr.
RB	Mark Kacmarynski, Central (Iowa)	6-0/215	Sr.
RB	Rob Marchello, Maine Maritime	5-10/196	Jr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	H/L/W/L	Class
L	Vince Penningroth, Warburg (Iowa)	6-3/235	Sr.
L	Robert Hull, Washington & Lee (Va.)	6-3/220	Jr.
L	Demetrius Stevenson, Wesley (Del.)	6-1/255	Jr.
LB	Blaise Coleman, Widener (Pa.)	6-3/213	Sr.
LB	Colby Compton, Plymouth (N.H.) State	6-0/185	Sr.
LB	Rick Sanger, Central (Iowa)	6-0/230	Sr.
LB	Rusty Van Wetzburg, Augustana (Ill.)	6-0/218	Sr.
DB	David Lefera, Albion (Mich.)	6-0/170	Jr.
DB	Antonio Moore, Widener (Pa.)	5-8/174	Jr.
DB	Matt Miller, Trinity (Texas)	5-10/175	Sr.
DB	Nkrumah Mabry, Alfred (N.Y.)	6-2/215	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	H/L/W/L	Class
K	Brian Anthony, Cortland (N.Y.) State	6-1/165	Jr.
P	Bryan Weber, Wis.-Platteville	6-3/210	Jr.
KR	Chris Palmer, St. John's (Minn.)	5-11/175	Sr.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE:

MARK KACMARYNSKI, RB, Central (Iowa), Sr.

DEFENSE:

ROBERT HULL, L, Washington & Lee (Va.), Jr.

TEAM	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25
AIR FORCE	BYU	Wyoming	Colorado State	at Northwestern	at New Mexico	UTEP	at Navy	at Utah	at Fresno State		Army	Notre Dame	at Hawaii
AIRBORN	Eastern Michigan		at Bowling Green	at Kansas State	Central Michigan	at Western Michigan	at Virginia Tech	Ohio U	Kent	Youngstown State	at Toledo	at Miami (Ohio)	
ALABAMA	at Vanderbilt	Southern Miss (at Birmingham, Ala.)	at Atlanta		at Georgia	N.C. State	Tennessee (at Birmingham, Ala.)	at Mississippi	North Texas	LSU	Charleston Southern	at Auburn	
ALA-BIRMINGHAM	Alabama State	at SW Louisiana	Jacksonville St.	at Western Kentucky	at Middle Tenn. St.	Wofford	at North Texas		at Troy State		at Mississippi State	Mills	
ALABAMA STATE	at Ala. Birmingham	Southern	Alcorn State (at Mobile, Ala.)	Troy State		Jackson State (at Detroit)	at Tennessee Southern	Prineas View	Alabama A&M (at Birmingham, Ala.)	Grambling	at Mississippi Valley		Tusculum (Nov. 24)
ALCORN STATE	Grambling	at San Houston State	Alabama State (at Mobile, Ala.)	at Texas Southern	at Arkansas-Pine Bluff	Howard (at Indianapolis)	Prineas View	at Southern	Sanford	Mississippi Valley		at Jackson State	
APPALACHIAN ST.	at Wake Forest	Edinboro (Pa.)	at North Carolina A&T		E. Tennessee St.	at Furman	Georgia Southern	at Marshall	UT Chattanooga	at VMI	Western Carolina	at The Citadel	at Arizona State (Nov. 24)
ARIZONA	Pacific	Georgia Tech (Sept. 7)	at Illinois	USC	California		at UCLA	Washington	at Washington State	at Oregon State	Oregon		Arizona (Nov. 24)
ARIZONA STATE	at Washington	UTEP	at Nebraska	Oregon State	at USC	Sanford	BYU	at Mississippi	at Oregon	UCLA	at California		at LSU
ARKANSAS	at SMU	South Carolina	at Alabama	Memphis (at Little Rock, Ark.)	at Vanderbilt	Tennessee	Mississippi (at Memphis, Tenn.)		Auburn (at Little Rock, Ark.)	Mississippi State (at Little Rock, Ark.)	SW Louisiana		
ARKANSAS ST.	Utah State	at UNLV	Southern Illinois	at Louisiana Tech	at Minnesota	SW Louisiana	at Texas Tech		Jacksonville State	San Jose State	at Northern Illinois	Mississippi Valley	
ARMY	Lehigh	Duke	at Washington		Pitt		North Dakota	at Boston College	Colgate	East Carolina	at Air Force	Bucknell	Navy (Dec. 2, at Philadelphia)
AUBURN	Mississippi	UT Chattanooga	at LSU		at Kentucky	Mississippi State (Oct. 9)	Florida	Western Michigan	at Arkansas (at Little Rock, Ark.)	NE Louisiana	at Georgia	Alabama	
AUSTIN PEAY	Eastern Illinois (Aug. 31)	Sanford	Western Kentucky	SE Missouri St.	Murray State	Middle Tenn. St.	at Tennessee Tech	Tennessee State	at Morehead State		at Eastern Kentucky	at UT Martin	
BALL STATE	at Miami (Ohio)	Western Illinois	at Minnesota	Western Michigan	at Purdue	at Toledo	Bowling Green	Eastern Michigan	at Ohio U	at Kent	Central Michigan		
BAYLOR	at Tulsa		Mississippi State	at N.C. State	Texas Tech		at Houston	Texas A&M	TCU	at Miami (Fla.)	at SMU	Rice	at Texas (Nov. 23)
BETH-COOKMAN	Howard	Morgan State	at UT Chattanooga		Hampton (at Jacksonville)	at Norfolk State	South Carolina State	at Albany (Ga.) State	North Carolina A&T	at Central Florida	at Delaware State		Florida A&M (at Tampa)
BOISE STATE		at Utah State	Sam Houston State	at Montana	Northwestern State	Northern Arizona	at Weber State	Idaho State	Portland State	Eastern Washington	Montana State	at Idaho	
BOSTON COLLEGE	Ohio State (Aug. 27) (at E. Rutherford, N.J.)	at Virginia Tech (Sept. 7)	Michigan	at Michigan State	Pitt		West Virginia	Army	at Notre Dame	at Temple	Miami	at Syracuse	at Rutgers (Nov. 24)
BOSTON U.		at Villanova (Sept. 8)	Marne	Delaware	at Richmond	at James Madison	Florida Island	Northwestern	at New Hampshire	at Connecticut	Massachusetts	at Buffalo	
BOWLING GREEN	Louisiana Tech	at Missouri	Atorn	at Central Michigan	at Temple	Miami (Ohio)	at Ball State	at Toledo	at Western Michigan	Ohio U	at Kent	at Fresno State	
BRIGHAM YOUNG	at Air Force	UCLA	San Diego State	Wyoming	at Colorado State		at Arizona State		Hawaii	Tulsa	at New Mexico	Utah	
BROWN			at Yale	Rhode Island	at Holy Cross	Princeton	Colgate	at Pennsylvania	Cornell	Harvard	at Dartmouth	Columbia	
BUCHELL		Southern Connecticut	at Fordham	at Princeton	at Pennsylvania	Towson State	Cornell	at Lehigh	Lafayette	at Holy Cross	Colgate	at Army	
BUFFALO	Fordham	Lafayette	at Illinois State	at Connecticut	Villanova	Maine	Massachusetts		at Indiana (Oct. 27)	Central State (Ohio)	at Youngstown State	Boston University	
BUTLER	Howard Payne	at Towson State	at Millikin	West. Stevens Pt.	Drake	Vanderbilt	at Dayton	Thomas More	at Evansville	at San Diego			
CALIFORNIA	at San Diego State	Fresno State	Montana State	at Weber State	at Arizona	USC	Oregon	at Oregon State	at UCLA	Washington State	Arizona State	at Stanford	
CAL POLY-SLO	Western Montana	Idaho State	at Idaho State	at Northern Arizona		at Southern Utah	at Sonoma State	Cal St. Sacramento	at St. Mary's	at Cal St. Northridge	at UC Davis	Eastern Washington	
CS-NORTHIDGE	Merlo College (Cal.)		at Idaho State	at Northern Arizona		at SW Texas State	Western New Mexico	at UC-Davis	Southern Utah	at Cal Poly-SLO	St. Mary's	Cal St. Sacramento	
CS-SACRAMENTO		at Northern Arizona	at E. Washington	Chico State	Portland State	Holiba	SW Texas State	at Cal Poly-SLO	UC Davis	St. Mary's	Southern Utah	at Cal St. Northridge	
CANISUS		at Meridian (Sept. 7)	at Siena	Gannon (Pa.)	Georgetown	at Buffalo State	at St. John's	Marist	at St. Peter's	at Duquesne			

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TEAM	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25
CENTRAL CONN.		Albany (N.Y.)	at Connecticut										
CENTRAL FLORIDA	E. Kentucky (Aug. 31)	Cusum-Neuman (Tenn.)			at Robert Morris	Towson State	Siena	at St. Francis	at Wagner	Southern Conn.	at Monmouth		
CENTRAL MICHIGAN			at East Carolina	Bowling Green	at McKeesport State	Sanford	Liberty	at Haverill	at NE Louisiana	Bethune-Cookman	Troy State	Maine	
CHARLESTON SO.	at UT Chattanooga	Presbyterian (S.C.)	at S. Carolina St.	Ferrum (Va.)	at Morehead State	at Eastern Michigan	at Youngstown State	Kent	Miami (Ohio)	Toledo	at Ball State	at Western Michigan	
CHICAGO	at Kansas	Kansas State	at Virginia Tech	at Miami (Ohio)	Toledo	East Carolina	Southern Miss	at Holsira	Liberty	at Ala.-Birmingham	Wofford	at Tulsa	
CHICAGO ST.	Newberry (S.C.)	Wofford	at Richmond	at Western Carolina	at E. Tennessee St.	at E. Tennessee St.	Furman	at Georgia Southern	Marshall	at UT Chattanooga	at Kentucky	at Tulsa	Appalachian State
CLEMSON	Western Carolina	Florida State	at Wake Forest	Virginia	at N.C. State	Georgia	at Bowen	at Maryland	at Georgia Tech	North Carolina	Duke	at South Carolina	
COLGATE	at Wisconsin	at Northeastern	at NE Louisiana	Harvard	at Princeton	Fordham	at Lehigh	at Dartmouth	at Army	at Lafayette	Bucknell	at Holy Cross	
COLORADO	Colorado State	Colorado State	at Air Force	Texas A&M	at Oklahoma	Kansas	at UConn	at Iowa State	Nebraska	at Oklahoma State	Missouri	at Kansas State	
COLORADO ST.	at Montana State	at Colorado			BYU	at Utah State	at Utah	New Mexico	at Wyoming	UTEP	Hawaii		at San Diego State
COLUMBIA	New Hampshire	at Harvard	at Princeton	St. Mary's	at Lafayette	Pennsylvania	Lehigh	at Yale	at Princeton	Dartmouth	at Cornell	at Brown	
CONNECTICUT		Central Conn.	at Pennsylvania	at Princeton	at Yale	at Villanova	at Maine	at Rhode Island	Northwestern	Boston U.	at James Madison	Massachusetts	
CORNELL		at Princeton	at Pennsylvania	Holy Cross	at Dartmouth	Harvard	Bucknell	at Lehigh	at Brown	Yale	Columbia	at Pennsylvania	
DARTMOUTH		at Princeton	at Pennsylvania	at Fordham	Cornell	Lafayette	at Yale	Colgate	at Harvard	at Columbia	Brown	Princeton	
DAVIDSON	University of the South	Maryville	at Maryland	at Emory & Henry	at Guilford	at Washington & Lee	at Meadost	at Randolph-Macon	Hampden-Sydney	at Centre	Bridgewater		
DAYTON	Albany (N.Y.)	San Diego	Towson State	at Wisconsin-Parkville	Georgetown (Ky.)	at Wake Forest	Bulter	at Drake	Valparaiso	at Evansville	West Virginia St.	at Hoford	
DELAWARE	West Chester		Villanova	at Boston U.	at Northeastern	Youngstown State	Richmond	at James Madison	Maine	William & Mary	at Navy	at Rhode Island	
DELAWARE ST.	Rhode Island		at Western Illinois	Liberty	Norfolk State	at Hampton	at Florida A&M	Morgan State	at S. Carolina State	at N. Carolina A&T	Bethune-Cookman	Howard	
DRAKE	Missouri Western	at St. Ambrose (Iowa)	at Ws. LaCrosse	Aurora (Ill.)	at Butler	Evansville	at Valparaiso	Dayton	at San Diego	Northwestern (WVa.)			
DUKE	Florida St. (at Orlando)	Rutgers	at Army	at Maryland	Navy	Georgia Tech	at Virginia	N.C. State	Wake Forest	at Clemson	at North Carolina		
DUQUESNE	at St. Francis	at St. Francis	Robert Morris	at Georgetown	at Gannon (Pa.)	St. Peter's	at Marist	Siena	at Iona	St. John's	Carslaw		
EAST CAROLINA	at Tennessee	at Syracuse	Central Michigan	at Illinois	West Virginia	at Cincinnati	at Western Kentucky	Temple	at Southern Miss	at Army	Tulsa	Memphis	
EASTERN ILLINOIS	Austin Peay (Aug. 31)	SE Missouri St.	UT Martin	SW Missouri St.	Central State (Ohio)	at Northern Iowa	at Middle Tenn. St.	UT Martin	Illinois State	Western Illinois	at Southern Illinois	at Indiana State	
E. KENTUCKY	at Central Fla. (Aug. 31)	Western Kentucky		at Tennessee Tech	at SE Missouri St.	Central Michigan	Syracuse	at Ball State	at Toledo	at Miami (Ohio)	Western Michigan	at Kent	
E. MICHIGAN	at Pitt	at Pitt	JMU	Ohio U.	at Weber State	Kalamazoo	at Idaho	at Northern Arizona	at Montana State	at Boise State	Montana	at Cal Poly-SLO	
E. WASHINGTON	at SW Texas St. (Sept. 7)	Cal St. Sacramento	Portland State	at Tennessee Tech	at Weber State	Central Michigan	at Idaho	at Northern Arizona	at Montana State	at Boise State	Montana	at Cal Poly-SLO	
E. TENNESSEE ST.	at Troy State	at Toledo	at VMI	at Tulsa	at Appalachian State	The Citadel	at San Diego	at Furman	at Ga. Southern	at Marshall	UT Chattanooga	Western Carolina	
EVANSVILLE	Kentucky Wesleyan	Cumtland	at Greenville	at Thomas More	at Appalachian State	at Drake	San Diego	at Valparaiso	Butler	Dayton	at Aurora		
FLORIDA	Houston	at Kentucky	Tennessee	Mississippi	at LSU	at LSU	at Auburn	at Georgia	at Georgia	at Northern Illinois	at South Carolina	Vanderbilt	Florida State
FLORIDA A&M	Tulalope (Ala.)	at Miami (Fla.)	Jackson State	Tennessee State (at Orlando)	at Howard	at N. Carolina A&T	Delaware State	Morgan State	Morgan State	Southern (at Atlanta)	at S. Carolina State		Bethune-Cookman (at Tampa)
FLORIDA STATE	Duke (at Orlando)	at Clemson	N.C. State	Central Florida	Miami (Fla.)	Wake Forest	Wake Forest	Georgia Tech	at Virginia (Nov. 2)	at Virginia (Nov. 2)	at North Carolina	Maryland	at Florida
FORDHAM	at Buffalo	Marist	Bucknell	Dartmouth	at Harvard	at Colgate	Holista	Richmond	at Holy Cross	Lough	at Lafayette		
FRESNO STATE	NE Louisiana	at California	Pacific	at Utah	at UCLA	New Mexico	at San Diego State	at Holy Cross	Air Force	at Hawaii	UTEP	at Wyoming	BYU
FURMAN	at Georgia Tech	at South Carolina State	Wofford	VMI	at Western Carolina	Appalachian State	at The Citadel	E. Tennessee St.		at Georgia Southern	Marshall	at UT Chattanooga	

TEAM	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25
GEORGETOWN			at Iowa	Duquesne	at Census	St. John's	Franklin & Marshall	at Johns Hopkins (Oct. 27)	at Miami	Siena	at St. Peter's		
GEORGIA	South Carolina	at Tennessee	New Mexico St.	at Mississippi	Alabama	at Clemson	at Vanderbilt	Kennedy	Florida		Auburn		at Georgia Tech (Nov. 23)
GA. SOUTHERN	South Carolina State	Mid. Tennessee (at Miami)	at Marshall	UT Chattanooga		Western Carolina	at Appalachian State	The Citadel	at E. Tennessee St.	Furman	at Liberty	VMU (at Norfolk, Va.)	
GEORGIA TECH	Furman	at Arizona (Sept. 7)	at Virginia	Central State (Ohio)	Maryland (Sept. 28)	at Duke	North Carolina	at Florida State	Clemson	at Wake Forest	N.C. State		Georgia (Nov. 23)
GRAMBLING	at Acom State		Hampton (at E. Rutherford, N.J.)		Prairie View (at Dallas)	Mississippi Valley	Arkansas-Pine Bluff (at Shreveport, La.)	at Jackson State	Texas Southern	at Alabama State	Elizabeth City St.		Southern (at New Orleans)
HAMPTON	at Morehouse (Ga.)	at Howard	Grambling (at E. Rutherford, N.J.)	at Southern	Bethune-Cookman (at Jacksonville)	Delaware State	at Norfolk (Va.) State		Elizabeth City State	at Liberty	Fayetteville State	Morgan State	
HARVARD			Columbia	at Colgate	Fordham	at Cornell	Holy Cross	Princeton	Dartmouth	at Brown	Pennsylvania	at Yale	
HAWAII	Texas	at Wyoming	UTEP		at UNLV		at New Mexico	Central Florida	at BYU	Fresno State	at Colorado State	San Diego State	at Air Force
HOFSTRA	Nicholls State	at Holy Cross	Lafayette	at Illinois State	Liberty (Sept. 29)	at Cal St. Sacramento		Charleston Southern	Bulldog (Oct. 27)	at Fordham	at Rhode Island	at Marshall	
HOLY CROSS		Holista	at Massachusetts	at Cornell	Brown	Yale	at Harvard	Lafayette	Fordham	at Bucknell	at Lehigh	Colgate	
HOUSTON	at Florida	Louisiana Tech	at USC	at Kansas	Florida A&M	at TCU	Baylor	SAMU	at Texas A&M		Texas		Texas Tech (at Rice) (Dec. 2)
HOWARD	at Bethune-Cookman	Hampton	N.C. Central	Arkansas-Pine Bluff (at St. Louis)	at Idaho State	at Montana State	Eastern Washington	at North Carolina A&T	Morehouse (Ga.)	South Carolina State	at Morgan State	at Delaware State	
IDAHO	at Oregon State		Sonoma State		Idaho	at Eastern Washington	Montana State	Montana	at Weber State	at Northern Arizona	at Northern Iowa	Bose State	
IDAHO STATE	at Cal Poly-SLO		Cal State Northridge	Southern Utah		at Indiana	Michigan State	at Boise State	Northern Arizona	at Montana	at North Texas	Weber State	
ILLINOIS	Michigan	at Oregon	Arizona	East Carolina		at Southern Illinois	Western Illinois		Northwestern	at Iowa	at Ohio State	Minnesota	at Wisconsin
ILLINOIS STATE	Washington (Kon.)	at Ohio U	Buffalo	Holiba	at SW Missouri St.	at Southern Illinois	Western Illinois	Michigan	at Eastern Illinois	at Northern Iowa	Indiana State	at Youngstown State	
INDIANA		Western Michigan	Kentucky	Southern Miss	at Northwestern	Illinois	at Iowa			at Northern Iowa	Michigan State	at Ohio State	Purdue (Nov. 24)
INDIANA STATE	Mars Hill (N.C.)	at Mississippi	Glenville (WV) St.	Western Illinois	Southern Illinois	at SW Missouri St.	at Northern Iowa	Eastern Illinois	at Youngstown State	Western Kentucky	at Illinois State		
IOWA			Georgetown	Pace	at Siena	Marist	at St. Peter's	at Wagner	Duquesne	at Canisius	at St. John's (Nov. 10)		Minnesota
IOWA STATE	Ohio U. (Aug. 31)	at TCU	at Iowa State	UNLV	New Mexico State	Oklahoma	Indiana	Penn State	at Ohio State	Illinois	at Northwestern	at Wisconsin	
JACKSON STATE	Alabama A&M (at Birmingham, Ala. Sept. 3)	Tennessee State (at Memphis, Tenn.)	Iowa	UNLV		Alabama State (at Detroit)	at Kansas	Colorado	Oklahoma State	at Nebraska	Kansas State	at Missouri	
JACKSONVILLE ST.	at Sam Houston St.	West Georgia	at Ala.-Birmingham	North Carolina A&T	Knoxville College	at Western Kentucky	at Sanford	at Troy State	at Arkansas State	at Texas Southern	Western Illinois	at SW Missouri St.	
JAMES MADISON	Morgan State	at William & Mary	McNeese State	at Villanova	at Maine	Boston U.	at New Hampshire	Delaware	Richmond	at Northeastern	Connecticut		
KANSAS	Cincinnati	at North Texas (at Irving, Texas)	TCU (Sept. 14)	Houston	at Colorado		Iowa State	at Oklahoma	at Kansas State	Missouri	Nebraska	at Oklahoma State	
KANSAS STATE	Temple	at Oregon	at Alcorn	at Alcorn	Northern Illinois	Missouri	at Oklahoma State	at Nebraska	Kansas	Oklahoma	at Iowa State	Colorado	
KENT	Youngstown State	at Miami (Ohio)	at Ohio U	at West Virginia	Western Michigan	at South Carolina		at Central Michigan	at Alcorn	Ball State	Bowling Green	Eastern Michigan	
KENTUCKY	Louisville	Florida	at Indiana	at South Carolina	Auburn		LSU	at Georgia	at Mississippi State	at Vanderbilt	Cincinnati	Tennessee	
LAFAYETTE		at Buffalo	at Hobbs	Pennsylvania	Columbia	at Dartmouth	at Princeton	at Holy Cross	at Bucknell	Colgate	Fordham	at Lehigh	
LEHIGH		at Army	at Colgate	Yale	New Hampshire	at Bowdoin	at Columbia	Cornell	at Massachusetts	at Fordham	Holy Cross	Lafayette	
LIBERTY	W. Virginia Tech	at Vill	Morgan State	at Delaware St.	at Indiana (Sept. 28)		at Central Florida	Hoford	at Charleston Southern	Hampton	Georgia Southern	Western Kentucky	

TEAM	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25
LOUISIANA STATE	at Texas A&M	at Mississippi State	Auburn	Rice	at South Carolina	Florida	at Kentucky	North Texas	Kentucky	at Alabama	Mississippi	at Vanderbilt	Arkansas
LOUISIANA TECH	at Bowling Green	at Houston	at South Carolina	Arkansas State	Tulsa (at Shrineport, La.)	at New Mexico State	at Pacific	Nevada	at Kentucky	at SW Louisiana	at Vanderbilt	at Tennessee	at Arkansas
LOUISVILLE	at Kentucky	at Northern Illinois	Michigan State	North Carolina (Sept. 21)	at Memphis	at Southern Miss	at Wyoming	at New Hampshire	at Delaware	Tulane	at Louisiana	at North Texas	at Central Florida
MAINE	at Haver (Pa.)	at Rhode Island	at Boston U.	at St. Francis	at St. John's (Sept. 28)	at Iowa	Duquesne	at Connecticut	at Delaware	Massachusetts	at Northeastern	at Central Florida	at Central Florida
MAST	at Monmouth	at Fordham	at St. Francis	at St. John's (Sept. 28)	at St. John's (Sept. 28)	at Iowa	Duquesne	at Connecticut	at Delaware	St. Peter's	at Siena	at Connecticut	at Central Florida
MARSHALL	at N.C. State (Aug. 31)	Tennessee Tech	Georgia Southern	Duke	at UT-Chattanooga	at Vill.	at Western Carolina	at Appalachian State	at The Citadel	E. Tennessee St.	at Furman	at Holista	at Holista
MARYLAND	at Tulane	North Carolina	West Virginia	Duke	at Ga. Tech (Sept. 28)	at Wake Forest	at Buffalo	at Clemson	at Louisville	at N.C. State	at Virginia	at Florida State	at Florida State
MASSACHUSETTS	at Richmond	Holy Cross	at North Carolina	at Youngstown State	at Central Florida	at New Hampshire	at Buffalo	at William & Mary	at Lehigh	at Maine	at Boston U.	at Connecticut	at Connecticut
MAINESE STATE	at SW Missouri St.	at Abilene Christian	at James Madison	at Youngstown State	at Central Florida	at New Hampshire	at Portland State	at Sam Houston State	at Stephen F. Austin	at SW Texas State	at Northwestern State	at Nicholls State	at Nicholls State
MEMPHIS	at Mississippi State	at Michigan	at James Madison	at Youngstown State	at Central Florida	at New Hampshire	at Portland State	at Sam Houston State	at Stephen F. Austin	at SW Texas State	at Northwestern State	at Nicholls State	at Nicholls State
MIAMI (FLA.)	at UCLA	Florida A&M	at North Carolina	at Virginia Tech	at Louisville	at Northwestern	at Miami (Ohio)	at Indiana	at Minnesota	at Michigan State	at Purdue	at Penn State	at Ohio State
MIAMI (OHIO)	at Ball State	at Kent	at Northwestern	at Cincinnati	at Michigan	at Bowling Green	at Toledo	at Illinois	at Wisconsin	at Michigan	at Indiana	at Penn State	at Penn State
MICHIGAN	at Virginia (Aug. 26)	at Memphis	at Boston College	at Cincinnati	at Miami (Ohio)	at Northwestern	at Toledo	at Illinois	at Wisconsin	at Michigan	at Indiana	at Penn State	at Ohio State
MICHIGAN STATE	at Ball State	at Kent	at Northwestern	at Cincinnati	at Michigan	at Bowling Green	at Toledo	at Illinois	at Wisconsin	at Michigan	at Indiana	at Penn State	at Ohio State
MID. TENNESSEE	Tennessee State	at Georgia Southern	at Morehead State	at Murray State	at Alabama State	at Auburn	at Auburn	at Eastern Kentucky	at Michigan State	at UT Martin	at Tennessee Tech	at Texas A&M	at Texas A&M
MINNESOTA	at Auburn	at Indiana State	at Ball State	at Georgia	at Arkansas State	at Purdue	at Northwestern	at Michigan State	at Michigan	at Ohio State	at Wisconsin	at Illinois	at Illinois
MISSISSIPPI	at Auburn	at Indiana State	at Ball State	at Georgia	at Arkansas State	at Purdue	at Northwestern	at Michigan State	at Michigan	at Ohio State	at Wisconsin	at Illinois	at Illinois
MISSISSIPPI ST.	at Memphis	at LSU	at Baylor	at Tennessee	at Mississippi State	at Auburn	at Auburn	at Eastern Kentucky	at Michigan State	at UT Martin	at Tennessee Tech	at Texas A&M	at Texas A&M
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY	at Arkansas-Pine Bluff	at Lamar College (Tenn.)	at Baylor	at Tennessee	at Mississippi State	at Auburn	at Auburn	at Eastern Kentucky	at Michigan State	at UT Martin	at Tennessee Tech	at Texas A&M	at Texas A&M
MISSOURI	at North Texas	at Bowling Green	at Texas Tech	at Missouri	at Southern	at Kentucky	at Kentucky	at Tennessee Tech	at Tennessee Tech	at Tennessee Tech	at Tennessee Tech	at Tennessee Tech	at Tennessee Tech
MONMOUTH	at Marist	at Robert Morris	at St. Peter's	at St. John's	at St. John's	at St. John's	at St. John's	at St. John's	at St. John's	at St. John's	at St. John's	at St. John's	at St. John's
MONTANA	at Eastern New Mexico	at Washington State	at Minnesota-Duluth	at Boise State	at Boise State	at Boise State	at Boise State	at Boise State	at Boise State	at Boise State	at Boise State	at Boise State	at Boise State
MONTANA STATE	at Colorado State	at Central Washington	at Cal Poly-SLO	at Southwest Texas State	at Northern Arizona	at Northern Arizona	at Northern Arizona	at Northern Arizona	at Northern Arizona	at Northern Arizona	at Northern Arizona	at Northern Arizona	at Northern Arizona
MOREHEAD ST.	at Kentucky	at K. Wesleyan (Sept. 7)	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.
MORGAN STATE	at James Madison	at Baltimore-Cocke	at Baltimore-Cocke	at Baltimore-Cocke	at Baltimore-Cocke	at Baltimore-Cocke	at Baltimore-Cocke	at Baltimore-Cocke	at Baltimore-Cocke	at Baltimore-Cocke	at Baltimore-Cocke	at Baltimore-Cocke	at Baltimore-Cocke
MURRAY STATE	at Western Kentucky	at Southern Illinois	at SE Missouri St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Middle Tenn. St.
NAVY	at Navy	at Navy	at Navy	at Navy	at Navy	at Navy	at Navy	at Navy	at Navy	at Navy	at Navy	at Navy	at Navy
NEBRASKA	at Nebraska	at Nebraska	at Nebraska	at Nebraska	at Nebraska	at Nebraska	at Nebraska	at Nebraska	at Nebraska	at Nebraska	at Nebraska	at Nebraska	at Nebraska
NEVADA	at Nevada	at Nevada	at Nevada	at Nevada	at Nevada	at Nevada	at Nevada	at Nevada	at Nevada	at Nevada	at Nevada	at Nevada	at Nevada
NEW HAMPSHIRE	at New Hampshire	at New Hampshire	at New Hampshire	at New Hampshire	at New Hampshire	at New Hampshire	at New Hampshire	at New Hampshire	at New Hampshire	at New Hampshire	at New Hampshire	at New Hampshire	at New Hampshire
NEW MEXICO	at New Mexico	at New Mexico	at New Mexico	at New Mexico	at New Mexico	at New Mexico	at New Mexico	at New Mexico	at New Mexico	at New Mexico	at New Mexico	at New Mexico	at New Mexico
NEW MEXICO ST.	at JTEP	at Nevada	at Georgia	at Georgia	at Georgia	at Georgia	at Georgia	at Georgia	at Georgia	at Georgia	at Georgia	at Georgia	at Georgia
NICHOLLS STATE	at Holista	at NE Louisiana	at Troy State	at Southern Illinois	at Southern Illinois	at Southern Illinois	at Southern Illinois	at Southern Illinois	at Southern Illinois	at Southern Illinois	at Southern Illinois	at Southern Illinois	at Southern Illinois

TEAM	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25
NORTH CAROLINA	Syracuse	at Maryland		at Louisville (Sept. 21)	Ohio U.	Virginia	at Georgia Tech	Wake Forest	at Clemson	Florida State	Duke		
N. CAROLINA A&T	at NC-Central (Sept. 3)	at Winston-Salem State	Appalachian State	at Jacksonville State	Clemson	Florida A&M	at Morgan State	Howard	at Bethune-Cookman	Delaware State	Lane (Tenn.)	South Carolina State	at N.C. State (Nov. 24)
N. CAROLINA ST.	Marshall (Aug. 31)	Virginia	at Florida State	Boyer	at Clemson	at Alabama		at Duke	Maryland	at Georgia Tech	at Wake Forest	North Carolina (Nov. 24)	
NORTHEASTERN		Cogate	William & Mary	Massachusetts	Delaware	at Richmond	at Villanova	at Boston U.	at Connecticut	James Madison	at Maine	at New Hampshire	
NE LOUISIANA	at Fresno State	Nicholls State	at Colorado	at Missouri	at Mississippi State	Troy State	at Nevada	Northwestern State	Central Florida	at Auburn	at Louisville		
N. ARIZONA	at New Mexico	Cal State Sacramento		Cal State Northridge	Montana State	at Boise State	Montana	at E. Washington	at Idaho State	Idaho	at Weber State		
N. ILLINOIS	at Southern Miss	Louisville	at San Jose State	SW Louisiana	at Kansas State	UNLV	at Utah State	Cincinnati	at Florida	Arkansas State	at Louisiana Tech		
NORTHERN IOWA	at Stephen F. Austin	at Iowa	Lock Haven (Pa.)		at Western Illinois	Eastern Illinois	Indiana State	Southern Illinois	at SW Missouri St.	at Illinois State	Idaho	Wyoma (Horn) State	
NORTH TEXAS	at Missouri	Kansas (at Irving, Texas)	Oregon State	at Oklahoma	Indiana	at Nevada	Ala.-Birmingham	at LSU	at Alabama	at JNU	Idaho State	at Louisville	
NORTHWESTERN	at Notre Dame	Maine (Ohio)		at Air Force	at Indiana	at Michigan	at Minnesota	Wisconsin	at Illinois	Penn. State	Iowa	at Purdue	
NORTHWESTERN ST.	at Southern	at Troy State	Delta State (Miss.)	East Texas State	at Boise State	Nicholls State	at Sam Houston St.	at NE Louisiana	SW Texas State	at McNeese State	Stephen F. Austin		
NOTRE DAME	Northwestern	at Purdue	Vanderbilt	Texas	at Ohio State	at Washington	at Army	USC	Boston College	Navy		at Air Force	
OHIO STATE	Boston Coll. (Aug. 27) (E. Rutherford, NJ)	Washington		at Per	Notre Dame	at Penn. State	at Wisconsin	Purdue	Iowa	at Minnesota	Illinois	Indiana	at Michigan
OHIO U.	at Iowa St. (Aug. 31)	Illinois State	Kent	at Eastern Michigan	at North Carolina		Western Michigan	at Akron	Bail State	at Bowling Green	Miami (Ohio)	at Toledo	
OKLAHOMA	San Diego State	San Diego State	SMU	North Texas	Colorado	at Iowa State	Texas (at Dallas)	Kansas	at Missouri	at Kansas State	Oklahoma State		at Nebraska (Nov. 24)
OKLAHOMA ST.	at Wyoming	at Tulsa	SW Missouri St.		at Tennessee	Nebraska	Kansas State	at Missouri	at Iowa State	Colorado	at Oklahoma	Kansas	at Kansas (Dec. 2)
OREGON	at Utah	Illinois	at UCLA	Stanford	Washington	Pacific	at California	Washington State	Arizona State	at Washington	at Arizona	Oregon State	
OREGON STATE	Idaho	at Pacific	at North Texas	at Arizona State		at Washington State	Louisiana Tech	at SW Louisiana	at Stanford	Arizona	USC	at Oregon	
PACIFIC	at Arizona	Oregon State	at Fresno State	at Nebraska		at Oregon	Louisiana Tech	at SW Louisiana	at San Jose State	New Mexico State	Merida	at Utah State	
PENN.			Dartmouth	at Lafayette	Bucknell	at Columbia	at William & Mary	Brown	at Yale	Princeton	at Harvard	Cornell	
PENN. STATE		Texas Tech	Temple	at Rutgers	Wisconsin	Ohio State	at Purdue	at Iowa	Indiana	at Northwestern	Syracuse	Michigan	at Michigan State
PITTSBURGH	Washington State	Eastern Michigan	at Texas	Ohio State	Virginia Tech	at Boston College	at Temple	Miami	at Rutgers	at Pennsylvania	Jackson State		at West Virginia (Nov. 24)
PRAIRIE VIEW	at Texas Southern		at Southern	at Tulane State	Grambling (at Dallas)	Arkansas Pine Bluff	Lafayette	at Harvard	Mississippi Valley	at Pennsylvania	Yale	at Dartmouth	
PRINCETON			Cornell	Bucknell	at Colgate	at Brown	at Lafayette	at Harvard	Columbia	at Pennsylvania	Yale	at Dartmouth	
PURDUE	at West Virginia	Notre Dame	at New Hampshire	Michigan State	Bail State	at Minnesota	Penn. State	at Ohio State	at Missouri	Wisconsin	at Michigan	Northwestern	at Indiana (Nov. 24)
RHODE ISLAND	at Delaware State	Maine	at New Hampshire	at Brown	Massachusetts	at William & Mary	at Boston U.	Connecticut	at SMU	Villanova	Hofstra	Delaware	
RICE	JNU		Tulane	at LSU	at Army	at Texas	TCU	at Texas Tech	at SMU	Texas A&M (Nov. 9)	at Baylor	Houston (Dec. 2)	
RICHMOND	VMI	at Massachusetts	The Citadel	Boston U.	at Northeastern	at Delaware	at Delaware	at Fordham	at James Madison	New Hampshire	at William & Mary	at Villanova	
ROBERT MORRIS	Waynesburg (Pa.)	at Monmouth	at Duquesne	Central Connecticut	at Gannon (Pa.)	at Gannon (Pa.)	Wagner	at Towson State	at Towson State	at Bethany (W.Va.)	St. Francis		
RUTGERS		at Duke	Navy	Penn. State	Syracuse	at Wagner	at Miami	at Virginia Tech	at Penn State	at West Virginia	at Tulane	at Temple	Boston College (Nov. 24)
ST. FRANCIS	Gannon (Pa.)	Duquesne	Marist	at Bethany (W.Va.)	at Monmouth	at Monmouth (Oct. 1)	Towson State	Central Connecticut	at Monmouth	at Robert Morris			
ST. JOHN'S		at Page	at Page	at Monmouth	Marist (Sept. 29)	at Georgetown	Carous	St. Peter's	at Siena	at Duquesne	Iona (Nov. 10)	Sacred Heart (Nov. 23)	
ST. MARY'S	Sonoma State (Calif.)	Chico (Calif.) State	at Weber State	at Columbia	at Humboldt State (Calif.)	at Georgetown	UC Davis	Southern Utah	Cal Poly-SLO	at Cal St. Sacramento	at Cal St. Northridge		
ST. PETER'S			Monmouth	at Siena	Wagner (Sept. 29)	at Duquesne	Iona	at St. John's	Carous	at Marist	Georgetown		

TEAM	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 15	Nov. 25
SAMFORD	Arkansas-Mt. Scio	at Austin Peay	Tennessee Tech		at Nichols State	at Central Florida	Jacksonville State	Stephen F. Austin	at Alcorn State	Morgan State	at UT Martin	Troy State (Nov. 16)	
SAM HOUSTON ST.	Jacksonville State	Alcorn State	at Boca Raton	Texas A&M-Kingsville	at Texas Southern	Stephen F. Austin	Northwestern State	at McNeese State	at Nichols State	at Nichols State		at SW Texas State	
SAN DIEGO	Chico State	at Dayton		at California Lutheran	at Valparaiso	Azusa Pacific	at Evansville	at Redlands	Drake	Baylor	Wagner		
SAN DIEGO ST.	California	at Oklahoma			Nevada (Sept. 28)	at Utah	Fresno State	San Jose State	at UTEP	New Mexico	Hypom	at Hawaii	Colorado State
SAN JOSE ST.	Stanford	at USC	at Northern Illinois	at California	Utah State		JULY	at San Diego State	Pacific	at Arkansas State	at New Mexico State	at Nevada	
SENECA			at Central	at St. Peter's	Iowa	at Harscocker	at Central Connecticut	at Duquesne	St. John's	at Georgetown	at Marist		
S. CAROLINA	at Georgia	at Arkansas	Louisiana Tech	Kentucky	LSU	Kent	at Mississippi State	Yankee	at Tennessee	Florida	Florida	Clatsop	
S. CAROLINA ST.	at Georgia Southern	Furman	Charleston Southern		Tennessee State (at Atlanta)	at Morgan State	at Bethune-Cookman	Hampton	Dalhousie State	at Howard	Florida A&M	North Carolina A&T	
SE MISSOURI ST.	S. Illinois (Aug. 31)	at Eastern Illinois	at Murray State	at Austin Peay	Eastern Kentucky	Tennessee Tech	at Jackson State	at Middle Tenn. St.	at UT Martin	at Missouri State	SW Missouri St.	Tennessee State	
SOUTHERN	Northwestern State	at Alabama State	Prattville	Hampson	at Mississippi Valley	at California	Washington State	at Notre Dame	Nicholls State	Fla. A&M (at Atlanta)	at Texas Southern		
SOUTHERN CAL.	San Jose State	at Arizona	Houston	at Arizona	Arizona State	at California	Washington State	at Notre Dame	at Washington	Stanford	at Oregon State	UCLA	
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	at SE Missouri (Aug. 31)	Murray State	at Arkansas State	Nicholls State	at Indiana State	Illinois State	SW Missouri St.	at Northern Iowa	at Western Illinois	Western Kentucky	Eastern Illinois		
SAMU	Arkansas	Navy	at Oklahoma	at Wisconsin	Texas	Louisville	at Cincinnati	at Houston	Rice	at TCU	Baylor	Texas Tech	
SOUTHERN MISS	at Northern Illinois	Alabama (at Birmingham, Ala.)	at Utah State	at Indiana	Tulane			at Tennessee	East Carolina	at Tennessee	at Memphis	at SW Louisiana	
SOUTHERN UTAH	Angelo State	at Montana Tech	at Western State	at Idaho State	at SW Texas State	Cal Poly-SLO	Nebraska Kearney	at St. Mary's	at Cal State Northridge	UC Davis	at Cal St. Sacramento		
SW LOUISIANA	at Nevada	A&M-Birmingham	at Memphis	at Northern Illinois	at Indiana State	at Arkansas State	New Mexico State	Pacific	at Tulane	Louisiana Tech	at Arkansas	Southern Miss	
SW MISSOURI	McNeese State	at Northern Missouri State	at Oklahoma State	at Eastern Illinois	Illinois State	Indiana State	at Southern Illinois	at Western Illinois	at Northern Iowa	at Louisiana Tech	at SE Missouri St.	Jacksonville State	
SW TEXAS ST.		Eastern Washington (Sept. 7)	Texas A&M-Kingsville (Sept. 14)	at Montana State	Southern Utah	Cal State Northridge	at Cal St. Sacramento	at Nichols State	at Northwestern State	McNeese State	at Stephen F. Austin	San Houston State	
STANFORD	at San Jose State	at Utah	at Wisconsin	at Oregon		at Arizona State	Washington	UCLA	Oregon State	at USC	at Washington State	California	
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	at Youngstown State	at Youngstown State	Angelo State (Texas)	Henderson State (Ark.)		at Sam Houston State	Nicholls State	at Samford	McNeese State	SW Texas State	at Northwestern State		
SYRACUSE	at North Carolina	East Carolina	at Penn State	Minnesota	at Rutgers	Temple	Eastern Michigan	West Virginia	at Miami	at Virginia Tech	at Pitt	Boston College	at Miami
TEMPLE	at Kansas State	at West Virginia	at Penn State	Bowling Green	Bowling Green	at Syracuse	Pitt	at East Carolina	at Miami	Boston College	Virginia Tech	Rutgers	
TENNESSEE	East Carolina	Georgia	at Florida	Mississippi State	Oklahoma State	at Arkansas	Alabama (at Birmingham, Ala.)	at East Carolina	South Carolina	Southern Miss	Kentucky	Vanderbilt	
UT CHATT.	Charleston Southern	at Auburn	Bethune-Cookman	at Georgia Southern	Marshall		at VMI	Western Carolina	at Appalachian State	The Citadel	at E. Tennessee St.	Furman	
UT MARTIN	Baylor College (Sept. 7)	at Eastern Illinois	at Eastern Illinois	at Montana State	Tennessee Tech	at Murray State	Tennessee State	at Eastern Kentucky	SE Missouri St.	at Middle Tenn. St.	Samford	Austin Peay	
TENNESSEE ST.	at Middle Tenn. St.	at Jackson State	at Florida A&M	at Florida A&M	South Carolina State (at Atlanta)	Morehead State	at UT Martin	at Austin Peay	East Tennessee Tech	at Tennessee Tech	Murray State	at SE Missouri St.	
TENNESSEE TECH	Campbellsville (Aug. 31)	at Marshall	at Sanford	Eastern Kentucky	at UT Martin	at SE Missouri St.	Austin Peay	at Morehead State	Murray State	at Tennessee State	at Middle Tenn. St.		
TEXAS	at Hawaii		Pitt	at Notre Dame	at SML	Rice	Oklahoma (at Dallas)	Virginia	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	at Houston	TCU	Baylor (Nov. 23) at Texas A&M (Dec. 2)
TEXAS A&M	LSU		Tulsa	at Colorado		at Texas Tech	SML	at Baylor	Houston		at Rice (Nov. 9)	at Middle Tennessee St.	at TCU Texas (Dec. 2)
TEXAS CHRISTIAN		Iowa State	at Kansas (Sept. 14)	at Vanderbilt		Houston	at Rice	Tulane	at Baylor	SML	at Texas Tech	at Texas	Texas A&M
TEXAS-EL PASO	at New Mexico State	at Arizona State	at Valdivia State	at Hawaii	Utah	at Air Force	Tulsa	Wyoming	San Diego State	at Colorado State	at Fresno State	New Mexico	

TEAM	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25
TEXAS SOUTHERN	Praine View	Clark		Alcorn State	Sam Houston State		Alabama State	at Mississippi Valley	at Gambell	Jackson State	Southern	at Missouri-Pine Bluff	
TEXAS TECH		at Penn State	Missouri		at Baylor	Texas A&M	Arkansas State	Rice	at New Mexico	at Texas	TCU	at SMU	at Houston
TOLLEDO		E. Tennessee State	at W. Mich. (Sept. 14)	at Nevada	at Cincinnati	Ball State	at Miami (Ohio)	at Bowling Green	Eastern Michigan	at Central Michigan	Alcorn	Ohio U.	
TOWSON STATE		Baylor	at Dayton	at Wagner	Marquette	at Central Connecticut	at St. Francis	Bucknell	Robert Morris	at American Int'l.	Southern Connecticut		
TRIOY STATE	East Tennessee State	Northwestern State	at Nashville State	at Auburn State	Western Kentucky	at Northeast Louisiana	at Charleston Southern	Jacksonville State	Ala.-Birmingham	at Central Florida	at Sanford (Nov. 16)		
TULANE	Maryland	Wake Forest	at Rice		at Southern Miss	at Mississippi	Memphis	at TCU	SW Louisiana	Rutgers	at Navy		
TULSA	Baylor	Oklahoma State	at Texas A&M	East Tennessee State	Louisiana Tech (at Shreveport, La.)	Wyoming	at UTEP		at Memphis	at BYU	at East Carolina	Cincinnati	
UCLA	Miami (Fla.)	at BYU	Oregon	at Washington State	Fresno State	Arizona	at Arizona	at Stanford	California	at Arizona State	Washington	at USC	
UNLV	at Rice	Arkansas State	at Eastern Michigan	at Iowa State	Hendrix	at Northern Illinois	at San Jose State		at Nevada	North Texas	Utah State	New Mexico State	
UTAH	Oregon	Stanford	at New Mexico	Fresno State	at UTEP	San Diego State	Colorado State	Air Force	Utah State	at Wyoming	at BYU		
UTAH STATE	at Kansas State	Boise State	Southern Miss		at San Jose State	Colorado State	Northern Illinois	at New Mexico State	at Utah	Nevada	at UNLV	Pacific	
VALPARAISO		at St. Xavier	Wfs. Whitewater	at Kalamazoo	San Diego	at Butler	Drake	Evansville	at Dayton	at Aurora	Kentucky Wesleyan		
VANDERBILT	Alabama	Boston U. (Sept. 8)	at Delaware	TCU	Arkansas	Connecticut	Georgia	at South Carolina	at Mississippi	Kentucky	Louisiana Tech	at Florida	at Tennessee
VILLANOVA		Boston U. (Sept. 8)	at Delaware	James Madison	at Buffalo	Connecticut	Northeastern	at Navy	at William & Mary	at Rhode Island	New Hampshire	Richmond	
VIRGINIA	at Michigan (Aug. 28)	at N.C. State	Georgia Tech	at Clemson	Wake Forest	at North Carolina	Duke	at Texas		Florida State (Nov. 2)	at Maryland	Virginia Tech	
VIRGINIA MILITARY	at Richmond	Liberty	E. Tennessee St.	at Furman	William & Mary	at Marshall	UT Chattanooga		at Western Carolina	Appalachian State	at The Citadel	Georgia Southern	
VIRGINIA TECH		Boston College (Sept. 7)	Cincinnati	Miami	at Pitt	at Navy	Aurora	at Rutgers	at West Virginia	Syracuse	at Temple	at Virginia	
WAGNER		Stony Brook	Towson State	at Navy	at St. Peter's (Sept. 29)	St. Francis	at Robert Morris	Iowa	Central Connecticut St.	at Monmouth	at San Diego		
WAKE FOREST	Appalachian State	at Tulane	Clemson	at Navy	at Virginia	Maryland	at Florida State	at North Carolina	at Duke	Georgia Tech		N.C. State	
WASHINGTON	Arizona State	at Ohio State	at Ohio State	Army	at Oregon State	Notre Dame	at Stanford	at Arizona	USC	Oregon	at UCLA	Washington State	
WASHINGTON ST.	at Pitt	Montana		UCLA	at Nebraska	Oregon State	at USC	at Oregon	Arizona	at California	Stanford	at Washington	
WEBER STATE	at Western Michigan	at Central Michigan	St. Mary's	Cal Poly SLO	Eastern Washington	at Montana	Boise State	at Montana State	Idaho	at Northern Arizona	at Idaho State		
W. CAROLINA	at Clemson	Edin (N.C.)	The Citadel	Furman		at Georgia Southern	Marshall	at UT Chattanooga	VMU	at Appalachian St.	at Liberty		
W. KENTUCKY	Murray State	at Eastern Kentucky	at Austin Peay	Ala.-Birmingham	at Troy State	Jacksonville State	Eastern Illinois	at Indiana State		at Southern Illinois			
W. ILLINOIS	Iowa Wesleyan	at Ball State	Delaware State	at Indiana State	Northern Iowa	at Illinois State	at Illinois State	SW Missouri St.	Southern Illinois	at Jacksonville St.	at Murray State		
W. MICHIGAN	Webster State	at Indiana	Toledo (Sept. 14)	at Ball State	at Kent	Aurora	at Ohio U.	at Auburn	Bowling Green	at Eastern Michigan	Central Michigan		
WEST VIRGINIA	Purdue	Temple	at Maryland	Kent	at East Carolina		at Boston College	at Syracuse	Virginia Tech	Rutgers	at Miami		at Pitt (Nov. 24)
WILLIAM & MARY	at Virginia	James Madison	at North Carolina	at New Hampshire		Rhode Island	Pennsylvania	at Massachusetts	Villanova	at Delaware	Richmond	Iowa	
WISCONSIN	Colorado	at Stanford	at Stanford	SMU	at Penn State		Ohio State	at Northwestern	Michigan State	at Purdue	at Minnesota		
WOFFORD	at Lamar-Pine Bluff (N.C.)	at The Citadel	at Furman	at Furman	at Presbyterian (S.C.)	at Liberty	Newberry (S.C.)	at Liberty		Elon (N.C.)	at Charleston Southern	Dayton	
WYOMING	Oklahoma State	at Air Force	Hawaii	at BYU		Colorado State	Colorado State	Utah		at San Diego State	Fresno State		
YALE			Brown	at Lehigh	Connecticut	at Holy Cross	Dartmouth	at Columbia	Pennsylvania	at Cornell	at Princeton	Harvard	
YOUNGSTOWN ST.	at Kent	Stephen F. Austin	Sippican Rock (Pa.)	at Michigan State		at Delaware	Cornell Michigan	Virginia (N.C.)	Indiana State	at Aaron	Buffalo	Illinois State	

1994 FINAL POLLS

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|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Nebraska | 11. Oregon |
| 2. Penn State | 12. Michigan |
| 3. Colorado | 13. USC |
| 4. Alabama | 14. Ohio State |
| 5. Miami (Fla.) | 15. Colorado State |
| 6. Florida State | 16. Brigham Young |
| 7. Florida | 17. North Carolina St. |
| 8. Texas A&M | 18. Virginia |
| 9. Auburn | 19. Washington St. |
| 10. Utah | 20. Arizona |

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| 6. Miami (Fla.) | 16. Kansas State |
| 7. Florida | 17. North Carolina St. |
| 8. Utah | 18. Tennessee |
| 9. Ohio State | 19. Washington St. |
| 10. Brigham Young | 20. Arizona |

AWARD WINNERS

HEISMAN TROPHY

(Top player/Downtown Athletic Club of New York)

- Year— Player, College, Pos.
 1935—Jay Berwanger, Chicago HB
 1936—Larry Kelley, Yale, E
 1937—Cint Frank, Yale HB
 1938—Davey O'Brien, Texas Christian, QB
 1939—Nile Kinnick, Iowa, HB
 1940—Tom Harmon, Michigan HB
 1941—Bruce Smith, Minnesota, HB
 1942—Frank Sinkwich, Georgia, HB
 1943—Angelo Bertelli, Notre Dame QB
 1944—Les Horvath, Ohio State, QB
 1945—Doc Blanchard, Army, FB*
 1946—Glenn Davis, Army HB
 1947—John Lujack, Notre Dame QB
 1948—Doak Walker, Southern Methodist HB*
 1949—Leon Hart, Notre Dame, E
 1950—Vic Janowicz, Ohio State HB*
 1951—Dick Kazmaier, Princeton HB
 1952—Billy Vessels, Oklahoma, HB
 1953—John Lattner, Notre Dame HB
 1954—Alan Ameche, Wisconsin FB
 1955—Howard Cassady, Ohio State HB
 1956—Paul Hornung, Notre Dame, QB
 1957—John David Crow, Texas A&M HB
 1958—Pete Dawkins, Army, HB
 1959—Billy Cannon, Louisiana State HB
 1960—Joe Bellino, Navy HB
 1961—Ernie Davis, Syracuse, HB
 1962—Terry Baker, Oregon State QB
 1963—Roger Staubach, Navy, QB*
 1964—John Huarte, Notre Dame QB
 1965—Mike Garrett, Southern Cal. HB
 1966—Steve Spurrier, Florida, QB
 1967—Gary Beban, UCLA, QB
 1968—O.J. Simpson, Southern Cal. HB
 1969—Steve Owens, Oklahoma, HB
 1970—Jim Plunkett, Stanford, QB
 1971—Pat Sullivan, Auburn, QB
 1972—Johnny Rodgers, Nebraska, FL
 1973—John Cappelletti, Penn State, HB
 1974—Archie Griffin, Ohio State HB*
 1975—Archie Griffin, Ohio State HB
 1976—Tony Dorsett, Pittsburgh HB
 1977—Earl Campbell, Texas, HB
 1978—Billy Sims, Oklahoma, HB*
 1979—Charles White, Southern Cal HB
 1980—George Rogers, South Carolina, HB
 1981—Marcus Allen, Southern Cal HB
 1982—Herschel Walker, Georgia, HB*
 1983—Mike Rozier, Nebraska, HB
 1984—Doug Flutie, Boston College QB
 1985—Bo Jackson, Auburn, HB
 1986—Vinny Testaverde, Miami (Fla.), QB
 1987—Tim Brown, Notre Dame FL
 1988—Barry Sanders, Oklahoma State, HB*
 1989—Andre Ware, Houston, QB*
 1990—Ty Detmer, Brigham Young, QB*
 1991—Deshaun Howard, Michigan, WR*
 1992—Gino Torretta, Miami (Fla.), QB
 1993—Charlie Ward, Florida State QB
 1994—Rashaan Salaam, Colorado*

OUTLAND TROPHY

(Top interior lineman/Football Writers Association of America)

- Year— Player, College, Pos.
 1946—George Connor, Notre Dame, T
 1947—Joe Steffy, Army, G
 1948—Bill Fischer, Notre Dame, G
 1949—Ed Bagdon, Michigan State, G
 1950—Bob Gam, Kentucky, T
 1951—Jim Weatherall, Oklahoma, T
 1952—Dick Modzelewski, Maryland, T
 1953—J.D. Roberts, Oklahoma, G
 1954—Bill Brooks, Arkansas, G
 1955—Calvin Jones, Iowa, G
 1956—Jim Parker, Ohio State, G
 1957—Alex Karras, Iowa, T
 1958—Zeke Smith, Auburn, G
 1959—Mike McGee, Duke, T
 1960—Tom Brown, Minnesota, G
 1961—Merlin Olsen, Utah State, T
 1962—Bobby Bell, Minnesota, T
 1963—Scott Appleton, Texas, T
 1964—Steve DeLong, Tennessee, T
 1965—Tommy Nobis, Texas, G
 1966—Lloyd Phillips, Arkansas, T
 1967—Ron Yary, Southern Cal, T
 1968—Bill Stanfill, Georgia, T
 1969—Mike Reid, Penn State, DT
 1970—Jim Stillwagon, Ohio State, MG
 1971—Larry Jacobson, Nebraska, DT
 1972—Rich Glover, Nebraska, MG
 1973—John Hicks, Ohio State, OT
 1974—Randy White, Maryland, DE
 1975—Lee Roy Selmon, Oklahoma, DT
 1976—Ross Browner, Notre Dame, DE*
 1977—Brad Shearer, Texas, DT
 1978—Greg Roberts, Oklahoma, G
 1979—Jim Ritcher, North Carolina St., C
 1980—Mark May, Pittsburgh, OT
 1981—Dave Rimington, Nebraska, C*
 1982—Dave Rimington, Nebraska, C
 1983—Dean Steinkuhler, Nebraska, G
 1984—Bruce Smith, Virginia Tech, DT
 1985—Mike Ruth, Boston College, NG
 1986—Jason Buck, Brigham Young, DT
 1987—Chad Hennings, Air Force, DT
 1988—Tracy Rucker, Auburn, DT
 1989—Moe Elewtonibi, Brigham Young, OG
 1990—Russell Maryland, Miami, DT
 1991—Steve Emman, Washington, DT*
 1992—Will Shields, Nebraska, OG
 1993—Rob Waldrop, Arizona, NG
 1994—Zach Wiegert, Nebraska, OT

LOMBARDI AWARD

(Top lineman/Rotary Club of Houston)

- Year— Player, College, Pos.
 1970—Jim Stillwagon, Ohio State, MG
 1971—Walt Patulski, Notre Dame, DE
 1972—Rich Glover, Nebraska, MG
 1973—John Hicks, Ohio State, OT
 1974—Randy White, Maryland, DT
 1975—Lee Roy Selmon, Oklahoma, DT
 1976—Wilson Whitley, Houston, DT
 1977—Ross Browner, Notre Dame DE

- 1978—Bruce Clark, Penn State, DT
 1979—Brad Budde, Southern Cal, G
 1980—Hugh Green, Pittsburgh, DE
 1981—Kenneth Sims, Texas, DT
 1982—Dave Rimington, Nebraska, C
 1983—Dean Steinkuhler, Nebraska, G
 1984—Tony Degrate, Texas, DT
 1985—Tony Casillas, Oklahoma, NG
 1986—Cornelius Bennett, Alabama, LB
 1987—Chris Spielman, Ohio State, LB
 1988—Tracy Rucker, Auburn, DT
 1989—Percy Snow, Michigan State, LB
 1990—Chris Zornich, Notre Dame, DT
 1991—Steve Emman, Washington, DT*
 1992—Marvin Jones, Florida State, LB*
 1993—Aaron Taylor, Notre Dame, OT
 1994—Warren Sapp, Miami (Fla.), DT*

BUTKUS AWARD

(Top linebacker/Downtown Athletic Club of Orlando, Fla.)

- Year— Player, College
 1985—Brian Bosworth, Oklahoma*
 1986—Brian Bosworth, Oklahoma
 1987—Paul McGowan, Florida State
 1988—Derrick Thomas, Alabama
 1989—Percy Snow, Michigan State
 1990—Alfred Williams, Colorado
 1991—Enck Anderson, Michigan
 1992—Marvin Jones, Florida State*
 1993—Trev Alberts, Nebraska
 1994—Dana Howard, Illinois

JIM THORPE AWARD

(Top defensive back/Jim Thorpe Athletic Club of Oklahoma City)

- Year— Player, College
 1986—Thomas Everett, Baylor
 1987—Bennie Blades, Miami (Fla.)
 Rickie Dixon, Oklahoma
 1988—Deion Sanders, Florida State
 1989—Mark Camer, Southern Cal*
 1990—Darryl Lewis, Arizona
 1991—Terrell Buckley, Florida State*
 1992—Deon Figures, Colorado
 1993—Antonio Langham, Alabama
 1994—Chris Hudson, Colorado

ODAK WALKER AWARD

(Top junior or senior running back/GTE SMU Athletic Forum of Dallas)

- Year— Player, College
 1990—Greg Lewis, Washington
 1991—Trevor Cobb, Rice*
 1992—Garrison Hearst, Georgia*
 1993—Byron (Bam) Morris, Texas Tech*
 1994—Rashaan Salaam, Colorado*

LOU GROZA AWARD

(Top kicker/Palm Beach County Sports Commission)

- Year— Player, College
 1992—Joe Allison, Memphis State*
 1993—Judd Davis, Florida*
 1994—Steve McLaughlin, Arizona

FRED BILETNIKOFF AWARD

(Top receiver/College Football Writers Association of America)

- 1994—Bobby Engram, Penn State*

*Junior. All others seniors.

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record against their regional rivals, the Akron Zips, who were 7-3 and needed a victory to advance to the playoffs. Akron built a sizable lead, only to see Youngstown rally. With a touchdown in the last minute, the Penguins won, 40-39.

"That may be our biggest win," Tressel says. "If that one didn't occur, I don't know if any of the others would have." The assistant head coach, Ken Conatser, saw "a monumental effort by the kids. They believed."

Now Youngstown State has a little dynasty in what Tressel calls "the state of Youngstown." The boundary is a circle 90 miles from the Penguins' 16,000-seat stadium. When Tressel gets his share of I-AA prospects inside that circle and augments those players with a handful of Floridians, he is happy—and so are people in the Mahoning River Valley.

Urban expert Peterson says, "The football team has created a regional feeling of pride that touches every strata of Youngstown society."

Youngstown State's alumni association roster was up 50 percent for 1994; contributions were up 1,000 percent; student applications up 16 percent; ACT scores up 20 percent. Never had the university raised more than \$3 million in capital funds; of its current target, \$22 million, school President Leslie H. Cochran says he has \$7 million after meeting with just 12 prospects.

"The driving core of this is football," the president says. "We couldn't have talked about being a premier metropolitan university if not for football. Now we can become something we never thought we could be five years ago."

Jim Tressel's teams play football so soundly and conservatively they would please a Brown or Lombardi. He says, "We won't beat ourselves. We want to play great defense. We want a balanced offense and difference-maker special teams. The most important thing we do is be objective in evaluating players. If a player thinks we're not using him correctly, we tell him, 'Show us on film.'"

Tressel plays basic football, nothing fancy in tactics and strategy. Conatser says, "Tressel emphasizes that the three most important things in football are 'people, people and people.'"

So Tressel gives every player a "Goal Sheet" with six categories: Spiritual, Academics, Personal, Football, Physical and Social. He also produces a "Winner's Manual," a 187-page book of collected wisdom about football and life, such as this under "Life's Thoughts":

"Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed. Every morning a

lion wakes up. It knows it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death. It doesn't matter whether you're a lion or gazelle: When the sun comes up, you'd better be running!"

"Teamwork" begins with a piece about geese: "When geese fly in formation, they travel about 70 percent faster than when they fly alone." "Discipline" quotes Bob Knight: "Do what has to be done, when it has to be done, as well as it can be done, and do it that way all the time."

The wrong coach pitching these homilies to the wrong players would build a program of impotent sentiment. Because Youngstown has the right coach and the right players, the result is strength. Tressel's players call him "classy," "straightforward," "not a shouter but you know he means business."

Lester Weaver, a free safety from Tampa: "I didn't have any idea where Youngstown

even was. But I saw how everybody was like family. And that's the basis of it, love. We'll hug more in warmups than some teams do in a season. Maybe my Florida buddies went to big schools, but I've got the memories—and the championship rings."

Reggie Lee, a linebacker from Miami: "Nothing is more important to a black man than education, and I'm living my family's dream. Coach Tressel emphasizing academics shows he wants us to be the best we can be."

In a year or two, the guess is, Tressel will leave Youngstown for a big-time job. Last winter, the University of Miami talked to him before hiring Dallas Cowboys assistant Butch Davis at a reported \$1 million per year.

Tressel likes it where he is. "This valley, this 'state of Youngstown,' opened its arms to us long before we won big. I've appreciated being in a place where relative importance is assigned to what we're trying to do."

A philosophy professor, Tom Shipka, says, "If Tressel were frank, he'd tell you he'd be happy to spend the rest of his career at YSU. But if the Ohio State or Notre Dame jobs were offered, he'd do some serious soul-searching."

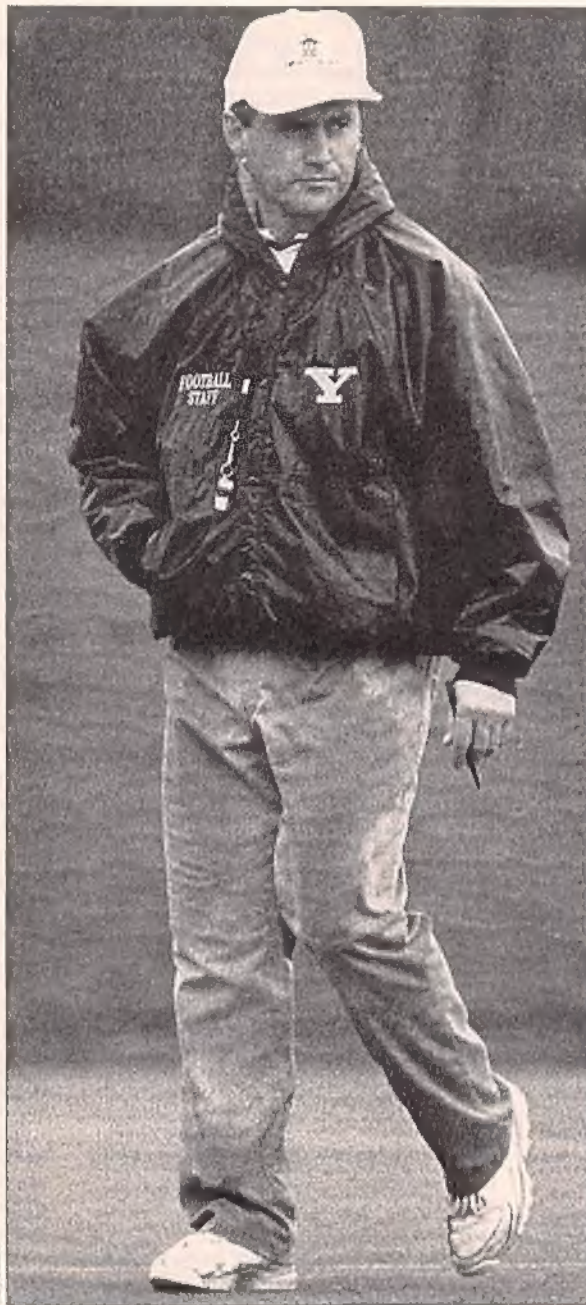
Dr. Cochran, the Youngstown president, spoke to Miami's president. "I told him Jim Tressel would win football games and run an impeccable program. I also told him he could put Tressel at a lectern for 15 minutes against any professor—and let the applause tell you who won. It'd be Jim Tressel."

Tressel admits to "sincere interest" in the Miami job. "I assess my ambition and feelings daily. What can I do to make this better at Youngstown? Wherever I can be a positive force for people and the school, that's where I want to be. For the moment, that's here. Not to say I'll be here forever."

If Jim Tressel sounds like a man who puts common sense to good use, no wonder. There was a Sunday afternoon with his father, Lee, then and now his idea of a coach. They had lost a championship game by 14 points. Jim had fumbled away one drive and thrown an end zone interception to stop another.

"Obviously distraught, I came by the house the next day," Tressel says. "It was a tradition that if you played on Saturday, you got to stop by my Mom and Dad's house on Sunday for a shaved ham sandwich. I stopped off that Sunday afternoon and Dad commented, 'Isn't it interesting that the sun did rise today?'"

After that, the shaved ham sandwiches tasted all right. ♦



Coach Jim Tressel has turned around the Youngstown State program. Supporters say Tressel also has helped the area feel good about itself.

Dave Kindred is a contributing writer for THE SPORTING NEWS.

THE GOVERNOR OF YOUNGSTOWN

Tressel rules domain in Ohio —and Division I-AA, too



By DAVE KINDRED

It's lunch time and Jim Tressel is on the telephone. The coach of Youngstown State's undefeated 1994 national champion football team is ordering carry-out from a local restaurant.

"I'd like two Cajun chicken sandwiches. . . . Yes, fries with both. . . . A Coke and a Diet Coke. . . . The name is Randy Brooks."

It can be deduced from his menu selections that the coach has no fear of the indignity inherent in such victuals. We also learn an unusual thing about Jim Tressel when we hear the nation's most successful college football coach order lunch under an assumed name.

"Got to use an alias," he says, his voice a conspiratorial whisper. "Otherwise, they won't let me pay. It gets to be embarrassing."

EYEWITNESS NEWS BREAK!

THIS JUST IN!

COACH BUYS OWN LUNCH!

The rarest of God's creatures is a football coach who uses an alias to buy his lunch and so avoid the embarrassment of a worshiper's offering. We encounter this rare bird fittingly enough in a room full of rare birds: penguins by the dozens, penguin dolls, penguins cut from glass, penguins in snowy portraits, penguins with snarls on their li'l beaks, all these penguins present in Jim Tressel's office because Youngstown calls its teams Penguins in tribute to the refrigerated wonders of northeast Ohio.

Rare birds beyond doubt, Tressel's Penguins have played in four straight national championship games. They have won the past two and three of the past four in the NCAA's Division I-AA, sometimes called "mid-major." At 61-9-2, Youngstown has won more games in the past five years

than any team, major or otherwise. (Tressel's nine-year record is 84-33-2.)

So the man from THE SPORTING NEWS gets on the phone to Youngstown because this Tressel fellow is putting up Bear Bryant numbers.

"Well, sure, come see us," Jim Tressel says. "But one thing, I don't want the article to be about me. I want it to be about my coaches and players and the program, not about me."

THIS JUST IN!

COACH WON'T TALK ABOUT HIMSELF!
WORLD TO END SOON!

Before getting a word with Jim Tressel, the man from THE SPORTING NEWS spoke to nine players, the university president, two athletic department executives, a trainer, a professor of philosophy, an assistant head coach, the director of the school's urban studies department and a Russian-born ex-French rugby player named Alex Ginzberg, a 160-pound defensive back who says, "I missed snow, they said I could walk on, and I got to play—for one ugly tackle and everybody chanted, 'Ru-dee, Ru-dee,' like in the movie, *Rudy*. Where else but Youngstown could I have done that?"

All this before speaking to Tressel, who, when told there might be no room left in the story for him, laughs and says, "Good, we're succeeding."

Not to god up Tressel. He is subject to his profession's fits of ego. But some men control the spasms better than others. And Tressel, after all, was born to the job.

His father's name was prominent in upper Ohio football. The late Lee Tressel would have played for Paul Brown at Ohio State except for World War II. Afterward, Tressel starred at Baldwin-Wallace College, near Cleveland. He coached 23 seasons at Baldwin-Wallace (155-52-6).

The coach's son, Jim, a quarterback, played at Baldwin-Wallace while planning to teach and coach. Two decades later, at age 42, Tressel believes his father's way of coaching still works:

"I was going to carry his basic philosophies because I was very happy with them. He treated us first as students; he treated us very consistently; he demanded academically; he demanded, football-wise, excellence."



Tressel's football career has taken him from high school to Division III to the Rose Bowl. He worked as an assistant coach at Akron, Miami of Ohio, Syracuse and Ohio State. When he arrived at Youngstown in 1986, the Penguins had gone 31-34-1 in the previous six seasons.

Paul Brown didn't invent the game in Ohio, but his touch of genius at a Massillon high school and at Ohio State brought a winner's shine to the European immigrant's nature that gave the state its fundamental character.

"It's such an ethnic, roll-up-your-sleeves, do-a-job-for-the-good-of-the-cause kind of place," Tressel says of upper Ohio. "And that typifies what football is. Football is not an individualistic sport. It's not that glamorous to practice—and neither was it glamorous working in those steel mills, the coal mines, the rubber factories."

Up to and for two decades after World War II, the steel mills made Youngstown prosperous. There were 59 blast furnaces along a 27-mile stretch of the Mahoning River. American steel-makers may have won World War II.

But then, fat and sassy, the industry spent little on research and development. Soon the war's losers became winners. With American help, the re-industrialization of Japan and Germany worked so spectacularly that those countries outperformed the U.S. steel industry. Collapse came quickly.

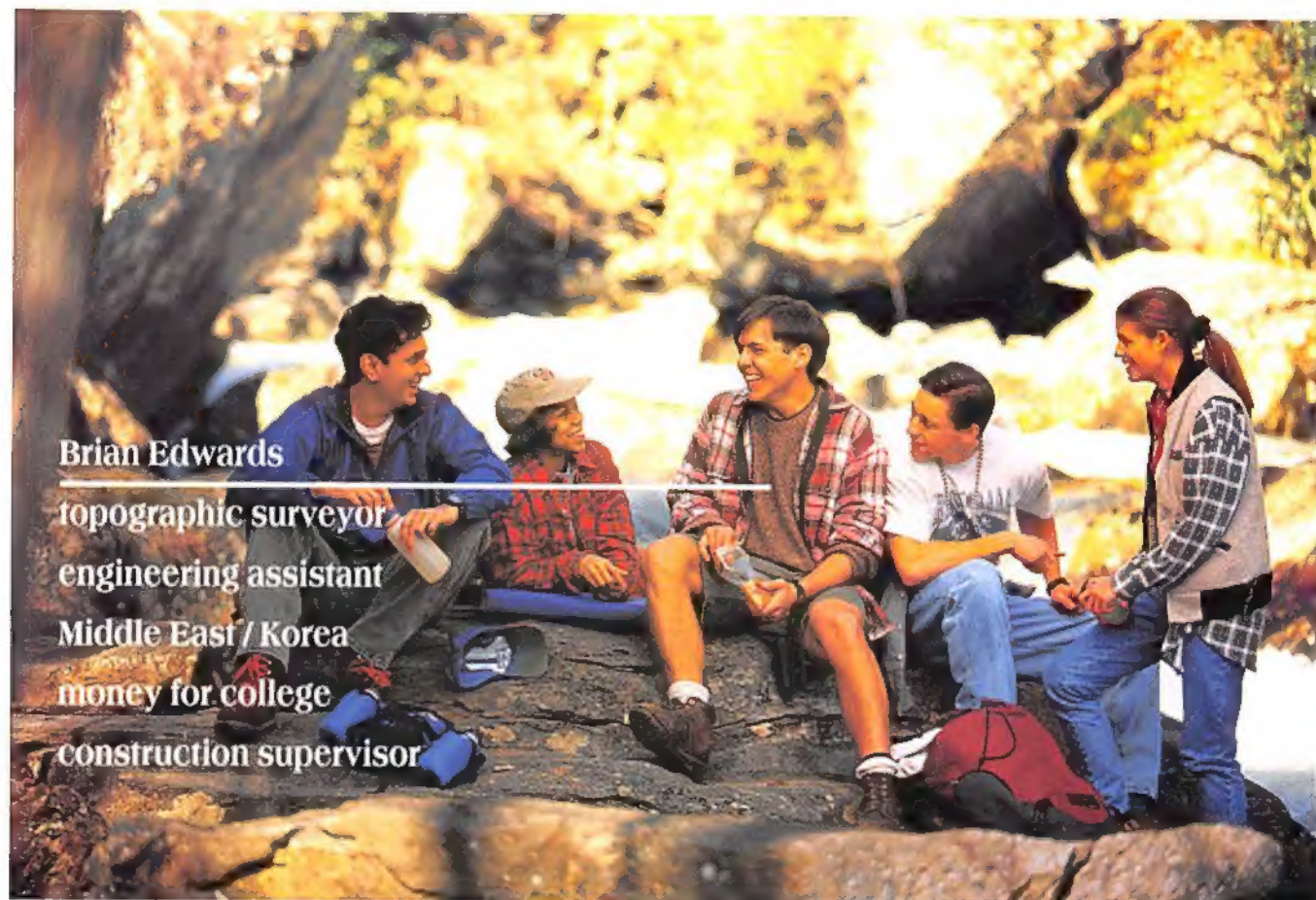
Today there is one blast furnace by the Mahoning. Between 1972 and 1980, Youngstown lost 50,000 jobs. Mahoning County's largest payroll is public welfare. The university's urban studies director, Gil Peterson, says, "When the steel mills closed, no one helped. Carter said he'd help. Reagan. Bush. Now Clinton. But it's still like a Third World country here."

Into this barren place came Jim Tressel, a football coach. He brought with him a sense of possibility that the city had long since lost. He believed things could be done and done well.

Curiously, that sense may have been made real in Tressel's worst season, his first at Youngstown. The Penguins took a 1-9

Continued on page 191

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